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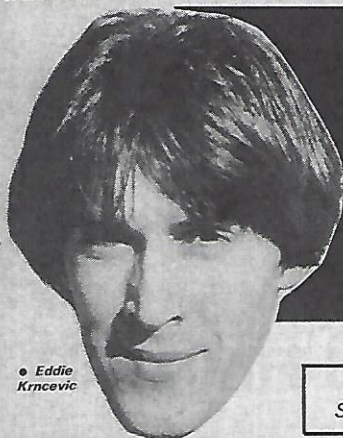
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• Eddie Krncevic

By
**LAURIE
SCHWAB**

KRNCCEVIC TO COME HOME

GEORGIE SIGNS ENGLISH STAR

By **CRAIG MACKENZIE**

Sunshine-George Cross has agreed terms with crack English defender Tyrone James and the 28-year-old will fly to Australia once the Immigration Department approves his visa.

James is a former Fulham, West Ham, Plymouth Argyle and Torquay United player and has made 100 appearances in the English First Division.

The colored defender was a team mate of Morwell Falcons coach Jimmy Dunne at Fulham. "If I could get him I'd bring him out here tomorrow," said Dunne.

"He's a good player, really, really good — a real professional — and he'll do a great job out here."

"He can play anywhere across the back four. He's good in the tackle, good in the air and reads the game well. He's quick too, so Sunshine-George Cross has signed a top class player."

Sunshine-George Cross coach John Gardiner had three players in England to choose from. His contacts over there gave him information on the trio and Gardiner finally decided to go for James.

Sunshine-George Cross team manager Joe Mallia phoned James last week and agreed terms, then sent a contract to England. That should be signed and returned later this week and once James' visa is approved he'll be heading our way.

James will be on a two-year contract and from all reports, he'll be one of the outstanding defenders in the National League as Sunshine-George Cross continues to improve and consolidate its NSL status.

Eddie Krncevic is set to join Sydney Croatia for a \$40,000 transfer fee plus a contract of at least \$25,000 a year.

The \$40,000 fee — the maximum stipulated in his contract with West German Second Division club Duisburg — would make him the most expensive acquisition in Australian soccer history.

He is playing for Belgian First Division club Cercle Brugge on loan from Duisburg. Previously, he played for Dinamo Zagreb in Yugoslavia.

Before leaving for Europe, Krncevic, 24, scored 17 goals in 33 games for Australia and played for Melbourne Croatia and Marconi.

Paul Blute, the star striker of National Cup giant-killer Adelaide Croatia, also is headed for Sydney Croatia.

Already, Sydney Croatia boasts star recruits Zarko Odzakovic from Preston-Makedonia and Jim Patikas from Sydney Hakoah, as well as player-coach Vedran Rozic, the former Yugoslav international from Hajduk Split.

In glamor appeal, no club in Australia comes close to Sydney Croatia — and Krncevic will be the greatest drawcard of them all, because he is playing the best soccer of his life.

Krncevic was talking terms with Sydney Croatia president Tony Basic yesterday (Tuesday). Basic, asked whether Croatia could afford Krncevic, said: "We can afford anything for a top player. We have the crowd, so now we must give them quality."

Krncevic said by phone from Bruges: "Cercle has first option on me until April 15 and I've had offers from Leicester City, SC Brugge, and French clubs St. Etienne and Sochaux but I feel I've done everything I wanted to do in Europe, and now I'm ready to come home. My wife, Margaret, also is Australian, so she'd like to come back too." Eddie and Margaret have a seven-month-old son, Jesse.

First, however, Krncevic will have to play out his contract, which expires in June.

When Krncevic joined Cercle Brugge, the club was 16th on the Belgian First Division ladder. In his first seven games, Krncevic scored four goals — all with headers — and set up another four, helping Cercle climb to eighth place. Cercle lost the first of those seven matches, but then won five and drew one. The club also has reached the semifinals of the Belgian Cup.

Two weeks ago, he played in an all-star team chosen from among the best foreigners in Belgium, against the full Belgian national team, in a match to raise money for the Ethiopian famine appeal. The all-stars lost 1-4 and although Krncevic played only one half, the all-stars' coach, Wilfried van Moer, singled him out for special praise.

"Three years in Europe really have improved my game," Krncevic said. "My skill is at least 100 percent better. Over the two years in Yugoslavia, I put aside a hour before every training session just to work on my skills. I can hold the ball at my feet much better now, I can shield it better and I've got much better vision. In Australia, the coaches either haven't got the time, or they don't know what to teach you."

About Croatia's offer, Krncevic said: "In my phone conversation with Tony Basic, I told him about the \$40,000 transfer fee and I stressed that I wouldn't come back unless I got paid at least the same as I'm getting here. It wouldn't be worth my while otherwise. Basic said no worries, he'd give me the same."

Continued page 4

Euro finals on SBS

SBS television will have a satellite coverage of all three European finals, beginning with the Cup Winners' Cup final on May 15, the second leg of the UEFA Cup final on May 22 and the Champions' Cup final on May 29.

Contrary to previous years the finals will not be put to air live in the early hours of the morning.

SBS has decided to experiment for a wider audience by withholding the live transmission and instead, putting the matches to air in their entirety at the prime time slot of 8.30 in the evening.

But possibly as attractive as all of those

is the replay of the 1960 European Cup final SBS will screen at 6 o'clock on Saturday, May 18.

That day marks the 25th anniversary of what is most widely regarded as the finest of all European finals to date — a show-piece of football where Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3 in Glasgow, marking their fifth consecutive European Cup win, with Ferenc Puskas (4) and Alfredo di Stefano (3) sharing Real's goals.

• In a special article, Les Murray recalls that match on Page 3

BOZANIC FOR SOCCEROOS?

By **RODNEY CHUGG**

Vic Bozanic will play for the Socceroos. There's nothing more certain after Bozanic signed with St George at the weekend.

I spoke to him this week about why he picked St George. He told me one of the reasons was that St George was closer to his home and work. Also St George apparently showed more interest than Sydney Hakoah.

I asked him whether playing under Frank Arok would give him a better chance for being picked for the national side.

He said: "If I perform I should have a chance of being picked." He has performed before, but this time could be different.

Asked how he had played at the weekend, he said: "I was happy with my performance. I lacked a bit of match practice. After three or four games I should be at my peak."

Asked if he enjoyed playing in midfield as he did on Sunday, he said: "I don't mind playing midfield. It's a challenge for me."

He played in the Australian team which won the 1980 Oceania Cup. Since then he has failed to catch Arok's eye. Now playing with St George and under Arok his chances look a lot better.

Bozanic played for APIA on loan from Marconi last year. St George paid Marconi \$10,000 for him.

Restrictions relaxed

• The Australian Soccer Federation has approved changes to regulations governing the importation of players. A State League or NSL club now is permitted to import up to three temporary visa players in the one season. Previously, a club was permitted to have three such players on its books but was able to import only one a year. Clubs are acting swiftly to fill their quotas.

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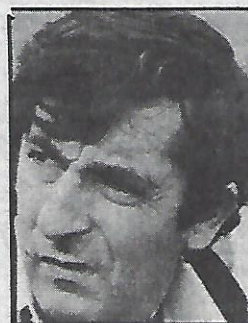
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IAN RUSH ONE OF A NEW BREED



Liverpool and Wales' goalscoring machine, Ian Rush

A new breed of young British strikers, headed by Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, is exciting the fans — and capturing the interest of Europe's top clubs.

British centre forwards used to be built like heavy goods vehicles with just about as much mobility. As far as they were concerned, dribbling was for babies — but put the ball in the air and they could head it like a howitzer shell.

Manchester United's Hughes and Liverpool's Rush belong to a new strain of lean, skilful strikers which also includes Gary Lineker of Leicester City, Peter Davenport of Nottingham Forest and Chris Waddle of Newcastle United.

Rush, Europe's top scorer last year, whose name has been linked with a series of Italian clubs, is the most famous and deadly striker in the British game today.

Liverpool never has lost a game in five seasons in which Rush has scored.

He has scored 73 goals in 107 league games in the past three seasons and could be the only person capable of seating Jimmy Greaves' record of 357 first-division goals.

His skills are the opposite of the old-style strikers. He can score goals with either foot, is useful in the air, can initiate goals for his fellow players and is also not afraid of heavyweight tackling.

Rush, 23, plays for Wales only because the ambulance carrying his pregnant mother headed for St. Asaph in Wales rather than Chester in England. His international colleague, Hughes, was also born close to the English border.

... AS SCOTLAND FINDS OUT

Ian Rush, reportedly a transfer target for Italy's wealthy soccer clubs, enhanced his reputation as a top goal scorer last week by setting up one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history.

Rush's stunning 38th minute strike enabled Wales to win 1-0 at Hampden Park, Glasgow and throw its qualifying group wide open.

West Germany took a step nearer qualification for next year's World Cup finals in Mexico by hammering Malta 6-0, while Belgium overcame Greece 2-0 and Yugoslavia

laboured to a 1-0 home victory over Luxembourg.

Rush was the star on a night of World Cup action as he conjured up a brilliant match-winning goal to stun the Hampden fans.

Spain and Scotland looked set to be the main rivals in Group Seven until Rush, who is reported to be the next major transfer target of the Italian side Milan, struck a left foot drive past Scotland's goalkeeper Jim Leighton from the edge of the penalty area.

As Scotland failed to break down a well-organised Welsh defence, the visitor emerged the winner to boost its qualifying chances, which after a defeat by Iceland last September, looked remote.

West Germany retained its 100 per cent record in Group Two by trouncing Malta in Saarbrücken.

The 21-year-old Hughes, who scored a hat-trick minutes in United's 4-0 defeat of Aston Villa recent spectacular player than Rush and could turn into crowd-puller at Old Trafford since Denis Law and Norman Whiteside, Hughes' 19-year-old teammate back to the old-style strikers as is England's new Hateley.

The astonishment at Hateley's expensive transfer from Portsmouth changed to admiration as the 23-year-old Italian league by storm.

Hateley's place in England's forward line is secure a long queue of hopefuls to be his partner.

At the head of the line is Lineker, 24, who averages every two games for Leicester, a fine record for an early fighting relegation.

Another hopeful is Davenport of Notts Forest, a player who once was turned down by Everton as perhaps the most talent among the new breed.

His positional sense is superb and his ability to sit cleanly and with ferocious power reminds many of Steve Archibald, now with Barcelona.

Davenport, still to sign a new contract with Forest, heading abroad at the end of the season as could Waddle's fortunes are his ball skills and his ability to

Malta surprisingly was beaten only 3-2 at home by the Germans, who obtained their revenge by racing into a 5-0 half time lead.

Uwe Rahn (two), Felix Magath and Pierre Littbarski all scored in the opening 18 minutes and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge scored twice more to strengthen the Germans' position at the top of the group standings.

All of last week's World Cup results:

GLASGOW: Wales beat Scotland 1-0 (half-time 1-0) in their European Group Seven qualifying match. Scorer: Ian Rush (37th min). Attendance: 62,000.

Group Seven

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Scotland	2	0	2	6	3	4
Spain	2	0	1	5	3	4
Wales	2	0	2	3	5	4
Iceland	1	0	2	2	5	2

Next match: April 30, Wales v Spain.

SAARBRÜCKEN: West Germany 5-0 (half-time 3-0) beat Malta 6-0 (half-time 3-0) in their European Group Two qualifying match. Scorer: Rahn (11th min). Attendance: 40,000.

Group Two

	W	D	L	F	A	P
West Germany	4	0	0	10	2	0
Portugal	3	0	0	7	2	0
Sweden	2	0	0	6	2	0
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	4	1	0
Malta	0	0	4	2	10	0

Next match: Malta v Spain.

BRUSSELS: Belgium 1-0 (half-time 0-0) in their European Group One qualifying match. Scorer: Frank Vercauteren (89th min). Attendance: 20,000.

ZENICA: Yugoslavia 1-0 (half-time 1-0) beat Spain 1-0 in their European Group Four qualifying match. Scorer: Ivan Gudelj (28th min). Attendance: 30,000.

DOHA: Qatar beat Oman 2-0 in their Asian Cup qualifying match. Scorer: Saleh Eid (13th min). Attendance: 1,000.

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We're getting nowhere — fast!

Nine out of 10 people you discuss soccer with will tell you the same story: the game is boring, tedious and dull even at the highest level and they have no idea, no plausible explanation why they still go and watch it.

But is it really dull — or just too fast? Is it, like Max Smart's dog Flash, too fast for the human eye to follow?

This, in case you haven't noticed, is the Jet Age, the era of rocketry and missiles which travel Moscow-New York in 15 minutes and laser beams which go at the speed of light because they ARE light. Speed is everything, speed is the revered god of our age, everybody and everything must prove to be faster than yesterday.

It's no wonder that speed is the main characteristic of today's soccer, too, as it is of many other sports. Once, in the romantic past, soccer used to be a game of wit, grace, charm and elegance, where physical attributes were only supportive virtues, not the decisive ones.

But all this has changed and not just in soccer. Fencing was once, until about the 1960s, a sport of immense skill where the wrist-work controlled the weapon, where "stealing" yourself to within a hitting distance was a subtle art. Delivering a hit on the opponent's cuffs was often so delicate that even the jury missed it and it fell upon the gentlemanly opponent to raise his arm and concede it with a "touché". Now the fencers merely cut each other to tiny smithereens: at the sign of "start" they rush towards each other, wildly gesticulating and brandishing their sabres or foils like headbutters. Fencing has become "fast"...

And much the same can be said about waterpolo, and handball, tennis and many other sports too where power, aggression and blind speed are the prized assets.

So why not soccer, then? Why are we surprised... at least, why am I surprised... that today's game is played at a hundred miles an hour?

Why do we shudder when everybody lashes out towards the ball AND the opponent, where being caught in possession is regarded as a mortal sin so that everybody is taught, from the age of five up, to get rid of the ball, quickly.

Australian soccer never has been skilful; to put it less offensively, individual, dazzling skill, never has been the true hallmark of Australian players. In my 35 years here I couldn't name a dozen Australian-born players with an acceptable European skill; perhaps a John Warren, Ernie Campbell, John Perin and a few others like them are the honorable exceptions.

True, we did have a brief period when a handful of teams, thanks to a small band of very skilful players from Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Holland, Italy, Greece, Argentina and other places, performed spectacularly, as if they liked the game of soccer instead of today's matadors for whom the match is an occasion for controlled violence. Is it, an actual fact, possible

to play good soccer at that breakneck speed? And do our coaches and players want to play "good soccer" in the first place?

There is little doubt that today's Australian soccer, more than ever since about 1950, is a poor imitation of the British rush-rush football. While Liverpool, Tottenham, Man United and perhaps another two or three teams have proved that it is, occasionally, possible to play thrilling and winning soccer at their dazzling speed, all the other thousands of British teams have failed at the experiment.

And our NSL teams, even the best, all look like third and fourth division teams from the UK darting up and down the field, 22 super-fit athletes zig-zagging a pitch and, now and then, having a surprise meeting with the ball.

The term "good soccer" is a controversial one books have been written on that. It doesn't mean the same thing in

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN



Curitiba as in Coventry, Vienna or Valencia, Osasuna, Opatija or Osaka. Nobody is necessarily right or wrong — it's just a matter of different tastes.

Paradoxically, our teams are serving up the kind of soccer the big majority of our spectators hate. I would hazard a guess that at least 80 percent — perhaps more — of our spectators are Continentals or Latin Americans. Yet our teams play British-Australian soccer. Why? Because the bulk of the players and coaches are of Anglo-Celtic stock. The welcome exceptions are the sons of migrants who are coming into senior soccer at a rapid rate:

the Farinas, Katholosos, Koczaks, Crinos, Tasioses and others.

To some extent, Australia's strict immigration policies can be blamed for our soccer's decline it's much more difficult to import players than it was 29 years ago. Then, I remember, one day the Sydney Croatia president returned from an overseas trip with five Argentinians — and all five were good players.

Now, in the NSL, a team only can have three temporary visa players. Until last week, when the ASL at long last realised its error, teams were allowed to bring out only one import a year. That's been changed to allow teams to

bring out three imports a year but they still only are allowed a total of three visa players on their books.

It's plain that Australian soccer cannot produce enough local quality and must have a steady supply of imports. When soccer has first choice of the talented, skilful boys in schools rather than follow the rugby and crickets, perhaps we can have a numerous clauses in our soccer immigration policy, not before that.

If British imports such as Robertson, Ratcliffe, Watson, Murphy, O'Connor, Cant and others who, to put it mildly, were modest performers back home, can be the mainstays of the Soccerero team, it's proof enough that the local product needs bolstering up.

But quite apart from the Soccerero, do imagine how the standard of our NSL teams could be again improved if we had a sprinkling of quality South American, Yugoslav, Scottish, Hungarian and other players, as we did in the 1960s.

Those of us who began to fear that our memory has been warped by nostalgia, received a pleasant boost the other day from an old boys' game featuring the great Puskas. There, in

the same team, we could admire the still almost intact skills of players like Takacs, Zuckerman, Lang, Schauman, Pompor, Patrinos and others, all well over 40. Half of these would literally walk into the Soccerero team if they were a bit younger...

Sadly, today's trend towards "competitive" football is universal; ball players are a vanishing tribe almost everywhere except in South America. But I still would welcome any serious attempt by our more senior coaches to slow down their teams and encourage them to play with the ball rather than just kicking it away, anywhere.

Even a little, seemingly insignificant factor could help: let's, like the Brazilians, use a softer ball and play on a slightly grassier pitch, not cut to rock hardness.

Perhaps the time has come for coaches, trainers and other technical experts to get together for a seminar and examine, thoroughly, the direction in which Australian soccer is going. It is up to these people to try to improve the game.

We have tried every possible



Steve Tasios

trick and cheap gimmick to get the crowds back and all have failed. Maybe quality soccer would work...

Real MADRID V FRANKFURT 1960

Poetry in motion



LES MURRAY

Picture this:

Alfredo Di Stefano picks up a loose pass around the half way line...

He steps forward, draws two men, piroettes and taps the ball back to Pachin. UK darting up and down the field, 22 super-fit athletes zig-zagging a pitch and, now and then, having a surprise meeting with the ball.

The stocky left half (that's what they called them in those days) looks again for Di Stefano, now well marked and positioned on the left touchline. Zarraga finds him. Di Stefano moves toward the ball, pulling his defender with him and then, with the inside of his right foot and behind his left, sweeps the ball sweetly forward, parallel to the line, straight to Puskas.

127,621 fans, mostly Scots, groan with almost embarrassed pleasure. Puskas, feinting, receive, lets the ball roll on, shaking his marker as Di Stefano darts forward on Puskas' inside, taking another two Germans with him. Thanks to Di Stefano, a wide open space now gaps between Puskas and Gento standing square 15 metres inside Gento's marker has gone, scrambling after Di Stefano while decoy run has neutralised two Germans.

Puskas chips to Gento who

receives it on his left foot, turns and moves forward. A man arrives from Gento's behind to tackle as the tricky winger steps on the ball, pulls it back and once again he is in space.

We are now three metres from the edge of the box as Di Stefano comes back to help.

Di Stefano receives the ball, turns toward goal, feints to go left but pulls it to his right and three defenders between him and the goal take the dummy, one of them falling flat on his back.

The ball is played in to Gento, now a couple of metres inside the box. Gento gives the hint of an error as he receives, recovers quickly as he looks again for Di Stefano who has darted further forward.

As more defenders close in, not knowing which of this lethal trio to mark, Gento plays it back to Zarraga midway between box and half-way line. By now De Stefano is near the penalty spot as Zarraga plays the ball first time to Puskas, now unmarked, standing in the left-winger's position 10 metres from the byline.

Puskas is fouled and there the move ends.

A move, involving 10 passes and five players, which took 34 seconds to complete and 45 minutes for me to describe.

For want of a more original expression, I'll call it poetry in motion and apologise for the understatement.

But poetry it was, this magical sequence merely a piffing verse in a masterpiece of sport as an art.

The 1960 European Cup final, between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt, has had a profound effect on all those with the slightest susceptibility to soccer's engulfing grip (me included, who owes 25 years of affection for the sport to its mere 90 minutes).

To watch it again, after more than 20 years when the ABC exhausted its last re-run rights, is to re-live an affair to remember.

As I watched the videotape, probably in silent, defenceless stupor, had the chief of CBS walked in he would have been told to shove his million dollar contract.

Had Joan Collins walked in with an offer of a dinner date, I would have told her to... well, maybe not, but close.

But enough superlatives about the game's magic.

How, if we can be rational for a moment, does it compare with football of today's vintage? How, if we use this game as a starting point, has the game changed in 25 years?

Would those guys, to pose the burning question, win as well and as easily today as they did then?

The short answer, in my view, is yes. They would best today's lot, or most of them, and not, somewhat surprisingly, because of the individual genius they collectively comprised.

Sure, genius they had but only when it came to three players: Di Stefano, Puskas and Gento.

Del Sol, bless him for now he is gone, was a marvellous engine, inexhaustible, polished and in every technical sense a quality footballer.

Santamaria was a supremely cultured, forceful and brainy centre back.

But neither was a genius in the Puskas, Di Stefano, Gento, and here's the point, Platini, Maradona or Zico sense.

Nor was the remainder of the Real team.

Apart from Puskas, Di Stefano and Gento (who were the essential difference between them and other first class teams of the era), they were a fine collection of footballers, all equally accomplished in the technical requirements of top flight European football.

But nothing more. Certainly not eleven heavenly creatures our yen for romance persuades us to remember.

But there WAS a difference between them and the players of today. Not in the stuff of which they were made, but how they approached their game.

The match serves as a marvellous archaeological specimen in the study of the game's evolution over the last quarter of a century.

And what we all thought happened is confirmed. The game has been become rougher, much rougher, thanks to expedient methods.

When one looks back on this lot of, in the majority, Spanish players, it is

beyond all comprehension how Spanish football could gain such a reputation for roughness as it now has.

When these players tackled for example, by and large their tackles would belie today's definition of the word.

They didn't tackle, they stole the ball, hooking it or flicking it away. Not because they had some noble regard for the shins of their opponents. Nonsense.

It's just that, in the first place, they had the courage to try and, besides, it would mean less risk of injury to themselves. But most importantly, because to look at it, it's rather than bulldoze it with both feet airborne, meant a high chance of regaining possession.

For surely the main aim of a tackle is not to stop an opponent but to regain the ball.

This is not to say the match proves there's less skill today.

It's just that football is played less skilfully. There's a big difference.

The coaches who in between then and now encouraged or, just as boldly, tolerated rough-house tactics had not been to stupid as to neglect the pragmatic values of skill.

They knew full well that of two players of equal height, weight and might the more skilled is of more use than the less skilled.

Indeed, when the game is screened on SBS on the 18th of May (exactly 25 years after it was played), you might be surprised at the percentage of error, especially in the early minutes, and the diligence with which opponents chase and close down in each other — in many ways much like today.

But when in possession they would try to create, with no fear that, unless they got rid of the ball in a 100th of a second they would hobble off the field on crutches.

But even so, with their particular belief in the importance of technique and their willingness to try things, I believe Real Madrid, vintage 1960, would be a conquering team today and Di Stefano, Puskas and Gento would be conquering players.

Though equally the reverse is true when it comes to today's greats and I wouldn't blame Platini, Maradona and Zico for wishing they were born in a different generation.

For with their ability to cope and find space today, they would have been great players even then.

VIRTUOSI OR ROBOTS?

Attacking soccer has been a talking point among soccer followers for many years.

The fact that goals are not as easy come by as in the "old" days cannot be disputed, but the reason for this is more complex than systems of play, team formations and tactics.

The expression "attacking soccer" means different things to different people. Some prefer plenty of goal-mouth action and want the ball delivered to the opposition's penalty area in the most direct manner, and enjoy the ensuing battle for possession within scoring distance.

Others prefer a more methodical approach, with possession the keyword, creating clear-cut chances through chess-like movements of the ball and players. At best, this approach is equally exciting. At worst, it can be an absolute bore!

Regardless of definitions of "attack", the ultimate objective is of course the scoring of goals, but the number of goals scored in a season, will never



By KEN KONTRA

again reach the numbers achieved 20 or 30 years ago, regardless of systems or tactics. That's because players, particularly defenders, are far more mobile and versatile today, and defences are much better organised.

What upsets supporters most, is when the improved athletic ability of players is employed primarily in preventing the opposition from playing, and organisation being taken to an extreme, with play becoming too methodical and stereotyped.

Unfortunately, it is always easier to resort to negative tactics, and over the years, individual skill and technique have suffered at the expense of running ability and organisation, rather than being improved by it.

Early introduction of systems of play at junior level

at the expense of repetitive, individual skill practice, is perhaps the biggest mistake a coach can make.

As mentioned earlier, goals never will be scored at the same rate as in the past, but improved technique would certainly compensate for this to a large degree.

So I hail those coaches, who at senior level want to play more attacking soccer. Let me qualify this by adding that whether in attack or in defence and regardless of team formations let us play with more positive attitude. Cut out the unnecessary negative tactics as much as possible and allow players to use their imagination and flair to the fullest.

My advice to junior coaches is: forget tactics and systems and concentrate on skill. What the game needs are virtuosos, not just robots who perform in a pre-determined way.

● Ken Kontra is a former Victorian State coach.

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Top imports on the way

Melbourne Croatia hopes to sign a star player from Yugoslav First Division club Dinamo Zagreb; Footscray J.U.S.T. has stepped up its efforts to sign two first-class Yugoslavs; West Adelaide Hellas is on the trail of a current England international and Kevin Keegan joins Blacktown on April 24.

Roberto Lettieri, the Brazilian whose arrival was delayed last week, should join Brisbane City this week, while City's opponent, Melbourne Croatia, will feature striker Ante Jubic in his Australian debut.

Australian clubs, quite clearly, are determined to get the crowds back, by luring top talent.

Five of the NSL clubs, plus Adelaide Croatia of the South

By
LAURIE SCHWAB

Australian State League, will double up in the National Cup quarter finals and in the league this week.

Preston-Makedonia is the only one likely to win both games.

If you can afford to have Graham Heys on the bench, you've got to have a lot going for you, so Makedonia should beat Green Gully in the Cup and Adelaide Juventus in the league. Green Gully appears to be the tougher opponent, and striker Claude Lucchesi is anxious to do well against his former club.

Green Gully coach Bobby McLachlan however, delights in the challenge of plotting against illustrious opponents, and he no doubt will be working out ways to blunt the Makedonia attack.

Makedonia however, can score also from midfield. Even Gordon Flavell came close against Brisbane Lions.

Green Gully tackles Sunshine-George Cross in the top Southern Division match on Sunday, and will be eager to avenge its losses of last year. Paul Lewis of Green Gully and Ozzie Latif of George Cross are in fine form in attack and one or the other is likely to determine the outcome.

Brunswick Juventus has shifted its match against Footscray J.U.S.T. to Monday. Juventus use Mike Petersen or Richard Miranda in midfield?

Weekend NSL matches with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY
Newcastle-Rosebud v CANBERRA CITY OLYMPIANS at Adamstown Oval, 2.30 pm.

SUNDAY
West Adelaide Hellas v HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER at Hindmarsh Stadium, 2.30pm
Brisbane City v MELBOURNE CROATIA at Spencer Park, 3pm
SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v Brisbane Lions at Middle Park, 3pm
PRESTON MAKEDONIA v Adelaide City Juventus at Connor Reserve, 3pm
Green Gully v Sunshine-George Cross (draw) at Green Gully Reserve, 3pm
Penrith v WOLLONGONG at Cook Park, 3pm
Inter-Monaro v SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH at Seiffert Oval, 3pm
MARCONI v Blacktown at Marconi Stadium, 3pm
St George Budapest v SYDNEY CROATIA at St George Stadium, 6pm

MONDAY
B.U. JUVENTUS v Footscray J.U.S.T. at Olympic Park No 1, 3pm
Sydney Olympic v APIA LEICHHARDT at Pratten Park, 3pm
Hellas v Cup tonight (Wednesday)

Adelaide Croatia v SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS at Hindmarsh Stadium, 8pm
SYDNEY OLYMPIC v Canberra City Olympians at St George Stadium, 7.30pm
PRESTON MAKEDONIA v Green Gully at Olympic Park, 7.30pm

NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD v Brisbane Lions at Adamstown Oval, 7.30pm.

Can J.U.S.T. climb out of its slump? Jim Kondorakis, 33, former J.U.S.T. captain, returned to the club last Sunday after retirement but was injured and so is in doubt for the game against Juventus.

Young striker Alex Botalic, son of the APIA coach, has moved from Sydney to Hakoah to Blacktown and hopes for a run against Marconi, which has been missing injured stars Bruce James, Joe Rizzotto and Rod Brown, but which hopes to sign defender Lee Sterrey from Sydney Croatia this week.

Mark Koussas of Sydney Olympic has a knee injury which may require a long rest, but he's been struggling to get into the side anyway. Marshall Soper who missed last Sunday's game against Blacktown, is likely to be back for the Cup game against Canberra tonight and the league encounter with APIA on Monday.

Manis Lamond, the promising teenager of Canberra Olympians, is back from Port Moresby and ready to stake a claim to a place in the team while Canberra's ace midfielder Tommy Sermanni has gained Australian citizenship which makes him eligible to play for Australia should a vacancy arise.

Jim Hamilton should prove a valuable acquisition for APIA, which is assembling a valuable squad indeed — a squad which should prove too powerful for Sydney Olympic.

South Melbourne Hellas, no longer in the Cup, will get a lot of spirited resistance from Brisbane Lions, but should win nevertheless, because Charlie Egan can do no wrong, and Oscar Crino is eager to get among the goals as well. And what about Doug Brown? He won't want to play second fiddle for much longer.

Heidelberg hopes to have Charlie Yankos back after injury for its clash with West Adelaide Hellas, which regains Gary Price and Allan Scott after injury.

Youth leagues

VICTORIAN YOUTH LEAGUE Footscray JUST v Melbourne Croatia 1-0. Heidelberg Alexander v Crofton City 12-0. Sunshine G.C. v Frankston 9-1. Footscray v Green Gully 1-0. Narelling City v Makenzie 0-2. Brunswick Juventus v St Albans 2-1.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE: Wollongong 2 Inter-Monaro 0. Sydney Croatia 0 Sydney City Hakoah 0. APIA-Leicthardt 0 Penrith 0. Blacktown 3 Sydney Olympic 0. Canberra 0 Marconi 0. Newcastle-Rosebud 2 St George Budapest 1. Standings: Blacktown 7, Sydney Hakoah 6, Rosebud 4, Wollongong 4, APIA 3, Marconi 3, Inter-Monaro 3, Croatia 2, Penrith 1.

VSF Travel

The VSF Travel Club, in association with Ametec Travel, provides a trip to Europe, flying Thai International, to the top scorer in the Southern Division of the NSL.

Leaders:
8 Egan (SMH)
3 Lewis (GG), Stevenson (Hb), House (M.Cr)
2 Cairney (BL), Maxwell (AC), Patterson, Selemidis (Hb), Latif (SGC), Ward (M.Cr), Spink (Mak).

Team of the Week

In brackets: number of appearances in team of the week.

TRAIANIDIS (2) (Makedonia)	VIDAIC (1) (Syd Croatia)	RICHARDSON (1) (Sun. Geo. Cross)	WHEATLEY (2) (Blacktown)
GREEN (1) (Wollongong)	McCULLOCH (1) (APIA)	BUTLER (1) (APIA)	MAXWELL (2) (Adel. C. Juventus)
PATIKAS (1) (Syd. Croatia)	KOCZKA (1) (St George)	EGAN (4) (SM-Hellas)	

Krnecvic to come home

Being chosen for the Soceroo squad still ranks high among Krnecvic's priorities. "Being back in Australia would make me more confident of selection," he said, "but I don't feel I have to prove myself. Frank Ark knows what I can do."

Talking about the Soceroo's potential World Cup opponents, Spain, Scotland and Wales, Krnecvic said: "Scotland is the best of the three, but in Australia, we'd have the chance of an intimidating factor, but the Spaniards try to

From Page One

walk the ball into the net. Wales has Rush and Hughes up front, and if we managed to control them, we could do OK."

Krnecvic said he would be watching Anderlecht play against Israel on TV soon. Israel is Australia's major competitor in the World Cup Oceania qualifying group.

Krnecvic dropped a bombshell in announcing that former national coach Les Scheinflug was one of the

major reasons he decided to quit Australia. "On my 21st birthday, he said to me: 'You could play in the Bundesliga. I said OK, so why can't I play in the national team?'"

Krnecvic said that the players ganged up on Rudi Gutendorf, the man Scheinflug succeeded as national coach.

"At a meeting at our hotel during the last World Cup series, most of the players said they wanted Rudi out. Only Alan Davidson, Peter Katholos and I stuck up for him. We lost the game, and Rudi was sacked."

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NSL NORTHERN DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
SYD. CITY HAKOAH	3	0	1	12	5	6
CANBERRA OLYMPIANS	2	2	0	7	3	6
APIA-LEICHHARDT	3	0	1	8	6	6
BLACKTOWN	3	0	1	4	3	6
SYD. CROATIA	2	1	1	8	5	5
Marconi	1	3	0	7	5	5
Sydney Olympic	2	0	2	2	4	4
Wollongong	2	0	2	10	12	4
St Geo Budapest	1	1	2	3	2	3
Penrith	0	2	2	2	4	2
Newcastle-Rosebud	0	1	3	3	8	1
Inter-Monaro	0	0	4	2	11	0

NSL SOUTHERN DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
H'BERG-ALEXANDER	3	1	0	8	1	7
STH MELB HELLAS	3	1	0	9	5	7
MELB. CROATIA	3	0	1	8	2	6
PREST. MAKEDONIA	2	1	1	4	3	5
SUN. GEO CROSS	2	1	1	2	5	5
BU-Juventus	1	2	1	4	4	4
West Adel Hellas	2	0	2	4	4	4
Brisbane Lions	2	0	2	4	4	4
Green Gully	1	1	2	5	3	3
Adel C Juventus	0	2	3	7	2	2
Brisbane City	0	1	3	1	6	1
Footscray JUST	0	0	4	2	11	0

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Egan further ahead

Charlie Egan of SM-Hellas has gone further ahead in both the Boral Bricks best player and top scorer awards.

Egan has been man of the match in three games out of four and now leads second-placed Steve Bryant of Canberra Olympians by three votes.

On the goalscoring list, he's got eight from four games — four more than second-placed Mark Jankovic of Marconi.

Top vote-getters:
28 Egan (SMH)
20 Bryant (Can)
19 Honeymann (W'H)
16 Stevenson (Hb)
15 Koczka (St G)
14 Bundalo (W), J. Stewart (BL)
13 Kosmina (S Hak)
12 Phillips (SO), Traianidis (Mak)
Top scorers:
8 Egan (SMH)
4 Jankovic (Mar)
3 Arnold (Cr), Lewis (GG), Stevenson (Hb), House (M.Cr), Farina, Kosmina (S Hak).

SOUTHERN DIVISION

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 2 (Incantulo 10th, Zinni 25th) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 2 (Egan 6th and 74th) at Olympic Park No. 2, ground. Crowd: about 6000. Ratings by Laurie Schwab:

JUVENTUS: Banovic 7, Dowie 5 — Lewis 8, B. Brown 8, Campbell 7 — Cullen 7, Wade 7, Petersen 6 (Miranda 60th), Incantulo 6 — Zinni 8, Sweeney 7. Coach: John Margaritis.
HELLAS: Laumets 7 — Russell 8, Yzendoorn 8, Postecoglou 8 — McDowell 7, Crino 8, Halford 7, Murphy 8 — Egan 9, Brown 7. Coach: Len McKendry.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Egan (SMH), 5 B Brown (Juve), 4 Crino (SMH), 3 Lewis (Juve), 2 Postecoglou (SMH), 1 Russell (SMH).

BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Cairney 64th) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (Spink 74th, Smith 90th) at Richlands. Crowd: 617. Ratings by Mark Bridgen:

LIONS: Evans 6, Jackson 7, Hunter 8, Vasquez 6, Niven 8 — R. Stewart 8, J. Stewart 8, Ogden 7 — Cairney 7, McDonagh 6, McGregor 7 (Anderson 77th). Coach: Gordon Arrowsmith.
MAKEDONIA: Traianidis 9 — McMillan 7, Dunn 8, Dobson 7, Opasinis 8, Spink 8, Flavell 8, Iliosi 6 (Heys 63rd) — Cole 7, Smith 8, Lane 7. Coach: Bill Murray.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Traianidis (Mak), 5 Hunter (Bl), 4 Flavell (Mak), 3 Smith (Mak), 2 Spink (Mak), 1 Niven (Bl).

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 2 (Patterson pen 61st, Stevenson 75th) BRISBANE CITY 0 at Olympic Village. Crowd: about 1000. Ratings by Ken Kontra:

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 7 — McKie 8, Gabrielson 7, Angele 7, Marley 7 — Tasio 7, Selemidis 7, Valentine 7 — Stevenson 8, Winn 7, Patterson 8. Coach: Brian Garvey.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 8 — Mengotti 7, Milanovic 7, Wilkinson 6, Bromfield 6 — Fabrizio 8, Junna 7, Hodgson 7, Hamilton 8 — Reis 8 (Glockner 65th), Scriggins 6 (Felsch 75th). Coach: Tony Lowndes.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Patterson (H), 5 Wishart (BC), 4 Stevenson (H), 3 McKie (H), 2 Hamilton (BC), 1 Fabrizio (BC).

CANBERRA CITY OLYMPIANS 1 (T. Byrne 74th) MARCONI 1 (Lowe 40th, penalty) at Manuka Oval. Crowd: 1,590. Ratings by Peter Windsor:

CANBERRA: Franken 9 — Ontong 7, Harkins 6, Burke 6 (Lamond 62nd), Jones 7 — Byrne 8, Sermanni 8, Bryant 8, Mihailidis 7 — Perinovic 6 (Gibson 45th), English 7. Coach: Roy Thompson.
MARCONI: McPherson 8 — Carter 7, Sterrey 7, Calderin 7, Henderson 6 — Massey 9, Tredinnick 7 (Bak 63rd), Jankovic 7 (Gunning 42nd), Lowe 7, Drime 7. Coach: Les Scheinflug.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Franken (C), 5 Mason (M), 4 Bryant (C), 3 Sermanni (C), 2 McPherson (M), 1 Tredinnick (M).

ST GEORGE 3 (Koczka 9th & 47th, Cotton 40th), NEWCASTLE ROSEBUDS 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1100. Ratings by Andrew Dettre:

ST GEORGE: Greedy 7 — Skeen 6, Ratcliffe 7, M. O'Shea 6, J. O'Shea 6 — Bozanic 6 (Petkovski 68 min), Stone 6, Barton 6 — Slater 6, Koczka 9, Cotton 6 (Marion 73 min), Stone 6. Coach: Frank Ark.

NEWCASTLE: Geis 6, Coach: Willie Wallace.
McQuarrie 5, Senkalski 6, Brandt 6, D. Jones 6 — Milosevic 6, (Stewart 63 min), Kerby 5. Coach: Willie Gallagher.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Koczka (St G), 5 Ratcliffe (St G), 4 Owens (N), 3 Greedy (St G), 2 Stone (St G), 1 Bozanic (St G).

APIA 1 (Caban 36) PENRITH 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1200. Ratings by Peter Scott:

APIA: Catlin 7 — Spina 7, Mariani 7, Rowden 8, Brown 7 — McCulloch 9, Butler 9, De Ceglie 6 — Colaguri 6, Caban 7 (Casacchi 84th), Morsello 6 (Genovese 71st). Coach: Fil Bottalico.

PENRITH: Gibson 7 — Brogan 7, Campbell 6, Ainsworth 5, Toohey 6 — Wetherston 6, Hebb 5 (Hunter 58th), Cross 5 — Easthorpe 9, Macintosh 5, Lucca 6. Coach: Willie Wallace.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Butler, 5 McCulloch, 4 Rowden (all APIA), 3 Brogan (P), 2 Mariani, 1 Spina (both APIA).

WOLLONGONG 4 (Hristovski 35th, Kotamanidis 65th, Giannone 53rd, Brodnik 85th) INTER MONARO 2 (Thamides 42nd, Dragicevic 69th) at Wollongong Showground. Crowd: 740. Ratings by Alex Vesic:

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff 6 — Green 8, Dickson 6, Willis 7, Condon 6 — Kerr 6, Hristovski 7, Bundalo 7 — Godzik 7, Kotamanidis 6 (Brodnik 77th), Giannone 5, Coach: Adrian Altos.

INTER MONARO: Hocking 5 — C. Ambrose 5, Carbone 7, Budini 8 — Thamides 6, Willox 5, Dragicevic 5, Coach: Josef Procop.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Green (W), 5 Budini (IM), 4 Bundalo (W), 3 Carbone (IM), 2 Godzik (W), 1 Hristovski (W).

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (R. Wheatley 45th) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 4550. Ratings by Mick Mikajczyk:

BLACKTOWN: Hoare 6 — Skellern 7, S. Pointer 7, Wheatley 8, Rasmussen 5 (Knight 20th), 7 — Bourke 6, Thornthwaite 8, Selva 7, Bradley 7, Larik 7 (Bottalico 65th), P. O'Connor 7. Coach: Casey De Bruin.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 6 — Johnston 6, Ziras 5, Lambropoulos 6, Jennings 6, Phillips 7, Raskopoulos 6, Katholos 6 — Patalis 5 (Sivinos 46th), 6, Theodorakopoulos 5 (Soper 65th), 6, Kalantzis 6. Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Thornthwaite (B), 5 Wheatley (B), 4 Phillips (SO), 3 Jennings (SO), 2 Pointer (B), 1 Selva (B).

SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (M. Kovacic 59th, Arnold 88th) SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 0 at King Tomislav Park. Crowd: 8,702. Ratings by Knut Warner:

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse 8 — Basic 8, Rozic 8, Vidalic 9, Rezo 8 (in A Kovacic H.T. 8) — M. Kovacic 8, Ostdzok 7, Savor 8 — Patikas 9, Arnold 8, Jurin 8. Coach: Vedran Rozic.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH: Pezzano 7 — Gomez 8, Robertson 7, S. O'Connor 7, Cant 6 — Watson 7, Kay 6, Barnes 7 — Farina 6, Kosmina 8, Lee 7. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Vidalic (Cro), 5 Patikas (Cro), 4 Rozic (Cro), 3 Kovacic (Hak), 2 M. Kovacic (Cro), 1 Savor (Hak).

Garvey not happy with win



Ken Kontra

Heidelberg 2 Brisbane 0

Scorers: Patterson (pen)
61st, Stevenson 75th.
Venue: Olympic Village
Crowd: About 1000
Referee: Dennis Voutsinas 8

Heidelberg coach Brian Garvey is a hard man to please!

He was not too impressed with his team's two-goal victory, and said after the match: "True, winning is important, but how you win is also important. The game should be enjoyable for the spectators and players alike, and this was not the case today."

True enough, this was not a game for the connoisseur, particularly the first half, which fell far short of expectations, with too many misdirected passes and high balls in windy conditions spoiling it as a spectacle.

Brisbane City, playing with a strong following wind, did gain some territorial advantage, but the Heidelberg defence, although weakened through the absence of injured Socceroo Charlie Yankos, stood firm and prevented City capitalising on its greater possession of the ball.

Alan Reis looked good at this stage, but lacked support. Luciano Fabrizio and Ray Junna did some promising things going forward, but generally Brisbane City was too predictable and lost the ball too easily to really put Heidelberg under pressure.

Tony Lowndes, despite reports to the contrary, could not strengthen his team with the inclusion of either Frank Pimblett or Brazilian striker Roberto Lettieri. Pimblett still is injured and Lettieri now is expected to arrive next week.

I am sure both will be welcomed with open arms, particularly as City's best striker on the day, Reis, sustained a knee injury and had to be replaced in the 65th minute.

A Reis shot on the run, which skimmed the bar in the

Man of the Match:
SCOTT PATTERSON
(Heidelberg)

10th minute, and a good run by Bobby Hamilton on the blind side of the Heidelberg defence, forcing Jeff Oliver to dive at his feet in the 31st minute, were the highlights for Brisbane City in the first half.

Heidelberg looked dangerous on a few occasions, when it experimented with the novel idea of keeping the ball on the deck in blustery conditions, and strung a few passes together as a consequence.

Scott Patterson beat off a couple of challenges and knocked the ball to the feet of Steve Winn. Winn chipped the ball across goal, but Sturt Stevenson failed to connect properly and Mike Milovanovic managed to clear off the goal line.

A short time later, in the 26th minute, the same three players were again involved in a promising move. Patterson played the ball forward to Winn, Milovanovic intervened, but under pressure from Winn made a mess of his back pass to Kim Wishart, allowing Stevenson to nip and and round the keeper. However, the angle was too acute, and Stevenson's shot hit the side netting.

In the opening 15 minutes of the second half, it was all Brisbane City, with Reis and Ray Junna prominent, but still unable to create clear-cut scoring chances, but a good effort by Lee Scraggins. He hit a powerful shot on the turn from 10 metres, only to see Oliver brilliantly tip over the bar, diving backwards.

From this point, Heidelberg took control and Wishart's goal was under siege for the remainder of the match. The City keeper saved brilliantly shots from Patterson, Stevenson and Tassios, but the writing was on the wall, and Heidelberg went ahead when Hamilton handled on the goal line following a Mike Valentine corner.

Patterson easily converted, sending Wishart the wrong way.

Hard working Stevenson put the issue beyond doubt when in the 75th minute he planted a firm header in the back of the net from a Winn cross.



Marijan Kovacic
(Sydney Croatia)

Casey's just too cagey for Olympic



Mick Mikolajczyk

Blacktown City 1 Sydney Olympic 0

Crowd: 2550.
Venue: Gabble Stadium
Referee: R. Davies 8.
Cautions: Katholos, Phillips, Soper (all Olympic).

Most of the credit for Blacktown's surprise, yet worthy, victory over highly fancied Sydney Olympic must go to the disciplined way in which it carried out its tactical assignments set by coach Casey De Bruin.

Blacktown, a team of triers, stuck diligently to its short passing game whereas Olym-

Man of the match:
BRUNO VIDAIC
(Syd. Croatia)

S. Croatia 2 SC-Hakoah 0

Scorers: M. Kovacic 59th, Arnold 88th.
Venue: King Tomislav Park
Crowd: 8,702
Referee: Richard Loren 8

Sydney Croatia demonstrated that it has found the recipe for success by hammering previously unbeaten Sydney City Hakoah 2-0.

Second half goals from midfielder Marijan Kovacic and striker Graham Arnold clinched the victory.

The season's best crowd in Sydney of 8702 attested to the fact that Croatia has arrived as a serious challenger for the Northern Division Championship.

Club president Tony Basic said before the game: "I am a great believer in paying out the money necessary to get top players and then draw the crowds."

Man of the match:
BRETT THORNTWHAITE
(Blacktown)

pic took the opposition too lightly and relied too much on reputations.

To say that coach Manfred Schaefer was annoyed with his players' improvisations would be speaking kindly indeed.

Too many of his players lacked maturity and apart from full back Graham Jennings and mid fielder Gary Phillips, the side badly lacked the direction and thrust required to overcome effective opponents.

With Mark Koussas injured and Marshall Soper on the reserve bench (carrying an injury from last weekend) Olympic's striking power was seriously depleted, with the result that the blues could only manage one shot at goal during the entire game. And then Nick Theodorakopoulos failed to connect properly with the ball in front of an open goal.

It also showed unquestionably how much Olympic relies on Marshall Soper's ability to prise open opposing defences when the rangy striker was introduced into the fray late in the game. This time the gamble didn't pay off.

On the other hand, Blacktown presented a solid combination. Its stubborn defence, ably led by tough stopper Cliff Pointer and talented discovery in the sweeper's role, Robbie Wheatley, gave no quarter.

The Demons' midfielders, in the struts not to afford their counterparts time to control and distribute the ball, did their job admirably. Stuart Selvaige and replacement Steve Knight worked tirelessly. Brett Thornthwaite, whose workrate was phenomenal, combined delicate touches and tenacious tackling to completely subdue Olympic's mastermind Peter Raskopoulos.

Moreover with Bradley, O'Connor and Larkin harrassing Olympic's defence the visitors were put under pressure all over the pitch.

On the stroke of half time, the goal securing both points for the home team was scored in dashing style by Wheatley.

The elegant sweeper strode upfield into acres of space before dispatching a shot which was blocked by two Olympic defenders. Winning the rebound he played a simple one-two with John Bradley before hitting a cracking shot past keeper Gary Meier.

Olympic was to fare no better in the second half and not once did it produce a goal-scoring opportunity from the countless high balls into Blacktown's penalty area.

The Demons stuck to their game plan and continued to graft, occasionally threatening to increase their lead. Right on full time they were denied a certain goal when keeper Meier brilliantly parried Thornthwaite's scorching volley.

Croatia has the recipe for success

As it happened on the day, Jim Patikas, who cost \$25,000 from Sydney Olympic, and \$21,000 buy from Preston Makedonia Zasko Odzakov, played differing roles in the victory.

The quick breaking Patikas was a marked man from the opening whistle.

Five times he was unceremoniously decked and Hakoah defenders Alex Robertson and Steve O'Connor both received yellow cards for fouls on him.

Odzakov was quiet in the first half, when Croatia went mainly through the right, but when play switched through the middle Odzakov contributed with some brilliant passes.

Patikas limped off the ground in the final minute with his legs a mass of knocks and bruises.

The scoreless first half produced a brilliant contest with Hakoah central striker John Kosmina well and truly blotted out by Croatia's towering stop-

per Bruno Vidaic. Croatia won a 50th minute corner on the left which Zeljko Jurin played short for Kovacic to control on the turn and hammer home.

Jurin should have scored in the 77th minute but squandered the opportunity.

With two minutes to go, Arnold crashed the ball home from 25 metres.

Opposing goalkeeper Tony Pezzano got his hands to it, but failed to stop it going in.

After the game, Croatia captain-coach Vedran Rozic attributed the win largely to his counter-attacking tactics, but they did not go down too well with Hakoah coach Eddie Thomson.

TRAIANIDIS FOR 'ROOS!

By MARK BRIGDEN

Brisb Lions 1 Makedonia 2

Scorers: Cairney 64th, Spink 74th, Smith 90th.
Venue: Richlands.
Crowd: 617.
Cautions: Opasinis 8th, Lane 14th (Mak).
Referee: Gordon Nicholson 6

Brisbane Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith predicted Makedonia 18-year-old goalkeeper Philip Traianidis could play for Australia after Makedonia's 2-1 win at Richlands.

And Makedonia coach Bill Murray agreed that in the youngster he had one of the brightest prospects in the country.

"With further coaching and a bit more experience, he is going to be a very difficult keeper to beat. He dominates his box better than most and has fine reflexes," said Murray.

"I don't know whether he is eligible for this year's National Youth team but he is definitely a player Frank Ark should be looking to in the future," said Arrowsmith.

Although Arrowsmith had praise for the Makedonia youngster, he was disappointed with his own strikers who he believed had the opportunities to punish Traianidis.

He said he believed the young Lions side rivalled Makedonia as one of Australia's most attacking teams.

Arrowsmith took statistics during the clash with Makedonia which showed that Lions had more shots at goal. But the Brisbane strikers did not have the composure or finishing talents of the Melbourne players.

Lions scored first, in the 64th minute, when a Russell Stewart corner hit the crossbar and rebounded into a huddle of players. Tom McGregor pounced on the loose and passed back to Alan Hunter who hit a low drive which Joe Cairney deflected into the net.

Four minutes later, Arrowsmith's point was emphasised when Cairney bombed an easy chance which would have given Lions a match-winning lead.

Man of the match:
PHIL TRAIANIDIS
(Makedonia)



Steve Smith

allowed to claw its way back into the game.

National youth player Warren Spink showed all his class and speed to score the equaliser when he capitalised on some sloppy defence by Steve Jackson and Rod Vasquez. The Makedonia striker stole the ball and raced 30 metres to slot his shot under Wayne Evans.

Makedonia, rather than sit back content with the point, took the game to Lions again and was rewarded with the winner in the last minute.

A Graham Heys' corner was met by the ever dangerous Steve Smith, who headed powerfully into the net to leave Lions stunned and shattered.

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 11. Jackson (BL), Cristaldo (M.Cr), Franken (Can).
 10. Hunter (BL).
 7. Mihailidis (Can), Dickson (W).
 6. Colagiuri (APIA), Farina (S.Hak), Thornthwaite (Black).



McLachlan: Juventus is indirect

Man of the Match:
STEVE MAXWELL
(A.C. Juventus)

A.C. Juventus 1
G. Gully 1

Goals: Maxwell pen, 75th; Smallman pen 83rd.
Referee: M. Browning 6.

The stifling Adelaide heat was the only winner at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Both sides struggled to come to terms with the conditions and neither looked like conquering the 32 degree temperatures and associated humidity.

Gully's coach Bobby McLachlan summed it up when he said: "A point's O.K. for us — both teams deserved something because of the heat."

The fact that it took two penalties to break the deadlock is indicative of the lack of scoring opportunity created by strikers of both teams and a reflection on the good work done by both defences.

Judging by the amount of blowing that went on, referee



• Green Gully's Stuart Cannell (right) heads clear of Fortu Costanza. Picture: FRANK HOBBS.

Mike Browning showed that perhaps he was born with a whistle in his mouth.

His constant whistling achieved little except to stop the flow that spasmodically enhanced the game.

After a lacklustre 75 minutes, a time in which Adelaide City Juventus had much of the possession, the crowd was given something to cheer when Browning awarded Juve a penalty.

Veteran Green Gully sweeper Willie Vassallo brought down industrious midfielder Steve Maxwell in the box and Maxwell obliged by slamming the ball past Lou Denys in the Gully goal.

After working for 75 minutes to take the lead, Juventus blew it six minutes later.

Ironically, it was a penalty at the other end that dis-

possessed Juventus of its lead. Willie McNally, desperately attempting to stop ever dan-

gerous striker Paul Lewis from scoring, dragged Lewis down in the area and despite the protests, Green Gully was given the penalty, which mid-

fielder David Smallman neatly slotted into the bottom, right-hand corner.

Juventus had some excellent chances to take the points, none better than a lightning Joe Mullen header that rattled the bar in the 70th minute.

Mullen was well supplied with a cross from fellow forward Peter Rankin, but he couldn't head the ball down past the outpositioned Denys.

Green Gully too had some close moments, but never threatened sufficiently to put McNally under a lot of pressure.

McLachlan said after the game that he was without a couple of key players and under the circumstances thought a draw was a fitting result.

Of the amount of play Juventus had, McLachlan said: "They're deceiving in that they have a lot of the ball, but there's nothing very creative in what they do with it."

"They might string eight or nine nice passes together, but they don't do anything at the end."

Juventus coach Edmund Kreft was reasonably pleased with his side's effort, but not with the end result.

"They played well, but we had 80 per cent of the ball and only got one point," he said.

Wollongong 4 Inter Monaro 2

Venue: Wollongong Show-ground

Crowd: 750
Referee: Gary Power 9
Cautions: Walsh, Willis
Sent off: Walsh 85th
Scorers: Hristovski 38th, Thamnides 42nd, Kotamanides 50th, Giannone 53rd, Dragicevic 69th, Brodnik 85th.

Giampaolo, Valeri and Brennan, the Inter Monaro front-runners, went on strike last Sunday, which left their side with little if no chance at all of success at the Wollongong Show-ground.

"How could they do this to me? After all I have done for those boys..." Laurie Pastrello was distressed to say the least as he spoke about his players' action.

With Angelo Ambrosino still sidelined with his knee-clearance from Canberra, the visitors were left in tatters. If we add to it that Monterosso was playing in the youth team and wasn't even on the bench for the first grade fixture, then the problems of Inter Monaro become more evident.

Joe Procop, the Inter Monaro coach, looks like being the target of the Inter stars. According to sources close to the club hierarchy, Procop could be replaced by Luciano Nesti before the week is over. Laurie Pastrello was not going to give away any secrets during the match and sat next to his coach.



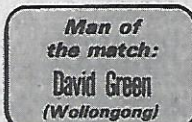
Alex Vesic

Without its star players, Inter played well enough to subdue the home team during the first period and if anything had the better chances.

Billy Willox came close with his header in the second minute, then Emil Dragicevic was put through by Willox a few minutes later. His first effort was blocked by Vardareff, in came Dragicevic with a header which was headed off the line by Willis. Thamnides was soon called upon to produce some of his magic down the touch line. He turned Green, then slid past Willis inside the box but went too far and his eventual outback had no power to beat Vardareff.

An incident midway through the first half should have given Monaro the lead. Hristovski's pass rebounded off Peter Viliis straight to Carbone who pushed it for Thamnides to race away towards Vardareff. He rounded the keeper but his left-footer was cleared off the line by Hristovski. Very poor finishing indeed!

And while Monaro kept missing chances, Wollongong came in with a bang! Zivko Hristovski was impeded some 25 metres from goal and the same player lined up to take the free kick. His left-footer rocketed past Hocking with



Man of the match:
David Green
(Wollongong)

the Inter Monaro "wall" looking terribly leaky.

Inter continued to look dangerous and Carbone's run only two minutes later almost had the desired effect. After beating two players Carbone shot from an angle for Vardareff to save. With three minutes remaining Wolves finally paid for its indecision in defence.

Chris Thamnides intercepted yet another poor pass by the Wolves defence and strode away to round Vardareff, then made room for himself before beating Hristovski on the line.

Wollongong looked a different side in the opening 10 minutes of the second half. Triggered by the tongue-lashing of Adrian Aiston, the home side raided Hocking's goal with zest and purpose. After a corner by Phil Kerr and a touch by Willis, in came Kotamanides to score from some six metres.

A few minutes later and again from the right hand side David Green crossed for Bernie Godzik to flick it to the back post and Dominic Giannone to head past the bewildered Inter defence.

With this kind of lead you would have expected the home side to go in for the kill. However, Wollongong's players dropped down a gear and that

was enough for Inter to come back giving the Wolves keeper something to do.

Once too often Vardareff was exposed to Inter's attack and he had little option but to bring down Billy Willox in the 68th. Emil Dragicevic made no mistake with his penalty kick to make it 2-3 and the game was on again!

But with little power up front, Inter could do little to make more of the good work by Carbone and Budini. At the other end and yet again from an attack on the right, Bernie Godzik drew Hocking and shot for goal, which the keeper parried only for Peter Brodnik to head home Wollongong's fourth goal.

Wollongong now has four points out of four matches with Inter none. But some Wollongong players must realise that the team consists of 11 players and that the game is played with one ball only.

Bernie Godzik, playing as the right side striker, had ample opportunities to employ Alex Bundalo. At one stage Bundalo was rushing through the defence for the ball from Godzik. With nobody to cover Bundalo, it was only a matter of short pass and Bundalo would have been in the clear to score.

Alas, Godzik elected to cross to the far post and the chance went begging.

Phil Kerr refused to pass to Gianni in much the same situation, electing to have a go at goal from some 40 metres out!

J.U.S.T.'s paid off \$80,000

Foots JUST 0 Melb Croatia 2

Scorers: Ward 43, Cumming 85th

Venue: Schintler Reserves

Referee: Stuart Mellors 9

Jim Kondarios, Footscreay JUST's permanent fixture at centre back for the first six years of the NSL, was signed back by the club for a paltry \$800 and was plunged straight back into the side to make his 100th NSL appearance after agreeing on Saturday to play without a contract or a signing-on fee.

But JUST's poor financial situation meant that even the token fee paid to Fawcner had to be forked out by committeemen.

"We realise that we need players but what everyone fails to give us credit for is that JUST was on the verge of liquidation at the start of the season but we have managed to pay off \$80,000 in three months to keep the club afloat," JUST president Tony Amon said after the game.

"Crowds are down drastically and I don't know if charging the extra dollar per person at the gate is working or not."

The only outlet for JUST to get players at reasonable prices is Yugoslavia and team manager Simon Turidja has four players under consideration. Two will be rushed here in the next three weeks.

While the club struggles with its financial problems, Cedo Cirkovic is left to worry about the results and the coach seems to be taking them to heart.

"We were playing so well in the first half and Milan Stojilovic came so close but the ball just won't go in."

"We have had to play the best clubs in the first four games (Makedonia, Heidelberg, Hellas and Croatia) and for me the season starts this coming week when we start playing teams which, if not worse, are the same as we are — the interstate teams — plus George Cross, Green Gully and the like."

Cirkovic lamented the loss of Kondarios who pulled a muscle and did not come out for the second half after doing a good job subbing Gary



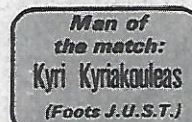
Peter Desira

Ward in the opening 45 minutes.

JUST shaded Croatia slightly in the first half with a Stojilovic shot luckily blocked after nine minutes. Kondarios coming close from a header following a corner, and with Zdravko.

Lujic creating a number of promising moves down the left side.

But Croatia put paid to all



Man of the match:
Kyri Kyriakoulas
(Foots J.U.S.T.)

the good effort when Ward robbed Slobodan Stojilovic on the edge of the box and hit a shot which beat Dennis Bland and went into the net off the post just two minutes from the break.

JUST was never in the hunt from then on and Croatia could have scored at least three more in the second half.

Greg House had a goal disallowed for offside in the 53rd minute. Steve Goevic made a superb solo run from the halfway line and forced Boland into a good save, and a Josip

Biskic cross was touched on by Drago Deankovic to put Ward clear for a shot which was turned for a corner before Croatia sealed the win with a second goal five minutes from the end.

Ward set Tommy Cumming up down the left and the tiny player, who had a quiet afternoon in midfield, hammered the ball past Boland into the far side of the net.

The match was the first in charge for Dom Kapetanovic and the new coach was suitably pleased with the result. "I am happy with the win but with the players we have got we can play much better," Kapetanovic said.

Kapetanovic praised the efforts of Jozo Antolovic, Deankovic and Ward but coyly brushed aside questions on how he intends to use new import Ante Ljubic.

Lamond almost wins it

Canberra 1 Marconi 1

Scorers: T. Byrne 74th, D. Lowe pen, 40th.

Venue: Manuka Oval.

Crowd: 1509.

Referee: Bob Marshall 7.

Cautions: Harkins, Tredinick, Gray.

Canberra kept its unbeaten home record after battling to a 1-1 draw with Marconi on Sunday — although the first hour of the game was all Marconi's.

In that hour, Marconi should have had the game sewn up. That it didn't more than anything can be put down to two touch-and-go offside decisions after Marconi's front-runner Mark Jankovics twice found the net.

Incredibly, the first came after just thirty six seconds — yes, seconds!

Canberra's defence was at sixes and sevens and when David Lowe burst through the middle only the bravery and reflexes of Canberra's Man-of-the-match, goalkeeper Tony Franken, charged down the shot.

But the ball bounced loose and Jankovics slotted it home. The linesman's flag had been up, however, and it was Lowe who was given offside.

After the game Marconi's



Peter Windsor

coach, Les Scheinflug, said he believed the goal should have stood — as Lowe was not interfering with the play.

In the 36th minute, after sustained Marconi pressure, Marconi winger Martin Djedje chipped over well judged centre to find Jankovics beautifully positioned.

Jankovics's header snaked past Franken's fingers and just inside the post. Once more up went the linesman's flag.

Finally, in the 40th minute, Marconi's pressure and fine creative play paid off. Once more Lowe burst through the middle and once more Franken somehow managed to charge down his sizzling shot.

Again it bounced loose and in clearing, Canberra defender Paul Ontong was judged to have handled the ball. The penalty was given and Lowe converted.

It wasn't until the 53rd minute that Canberra really created a clean, goalscoring chance. And it came from a free-kick which Tommy Sermani took quickly to beat an only partially marshalled defensive wall.

It looked to be a goal but for the fine reflexes of Marconi goalkeeper Alex McPherson who somehow got a hand to it to scramble clear.

In the 62nd minute, Canberra brought on Manis Lamond for his first NSL game of 1985 — and immediately Lamond's close ball skills and pace made a noticeable difference.

Yet Marconi's big front-runner Geoff Gunning, who had replaced the injured Jan-



Man of the match:
TONY FRANKEN
(Canberra City)

amazement in the 60th minute when Franken got a hand to his close-range shot to push it away for a corner.

But slowly, by the mid-way stage of the half, Canberra lifted its play and began, at long last, to dominate in the midfield and in defence.

Canberra earned a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area in the 74th minute and Marconi's defence broke for the first time.

Terry Byrne rose above the defence to get his head to Steve Bryant's free kick and it travelled at such pace it almost took away the roof of the net.

Canberra's best spell of the game followed.

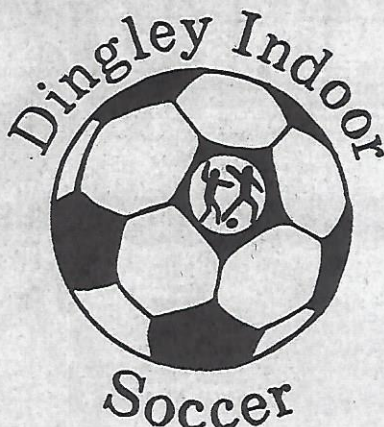
Tommy English was always dangerous but with less than 10 minutes remaining it was again the 19-year-old Lamond who almost stole both points for Canberra. He got away on the left flank and chipped brilliantly over McPherson's hands only to see the attempt rattle the crossbar.

Davidson injured

Alan Davidson has a back injury which is keeping him out of the Nottingham Forest team.

It tests show that the injury need time to clear up. Davidson may return to Australia in early May — before the English season ends.

He will visit his family in Melbourne and go back to England for the 1985-86 season.



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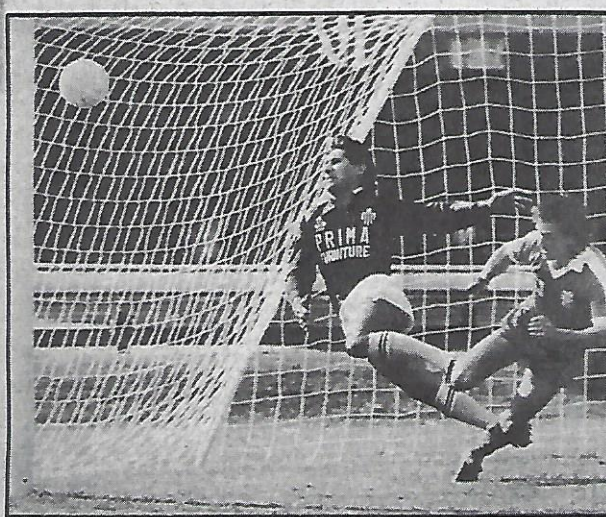
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Charlie Egan heads past goalkeeper Yakka Banovic — but this one was offside. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Man of the match:
CHARLIE EGAN
(SM-Hellas)

BU-Juventus 2 SM-Hellas 2

Scorers: Egan 6th, Incantulopo 10th, 2-1 Zinni 25th, 2-2 Egan 74th.
Venue: Olympic Park No. 2.

Cautions: Postecoglou (SMH), Russell (SMH), Lewis (Juvel).

Referee: Chris Bambridge 8. The Charlie Egan show continues. His biorhythms must be right. Or are those Mars Bars giving him new bursts of energy?

At any rate, Egan the 'Milky Bar Kid' scored two in this match to bring his total to eight in four games.

And his second goal — the one that salvaged a point for Hellas — was his 50th in NSL matches.

He could be excused, though, for feeling disappointed, for he could quite easily have scored more!

In the 18th minute, for example, Angie Postecoglou's shot hit the crossbar, Oscar Crino latched onto the rebound



Laurie Schwab

and headed it goalwards and there was Egan to poke it in. It didn't count, though, because he was marginally offside.

In the 77th minute, Egan jumped to meet a cross from John Yzendoorn but his side-volley was stopped by a reflex save from goalkeeper Yakka Banovic.

In between, Egan wriggled past his marker, Brian Brown, who had missed the ball, and cut it back from the line for a close-range header by Doug Brown. Again Banovic managed a brilliant reflex save.

And so, instead of scoring merely two goals, Egan could have finished with four while also setting up another.

What more can a striker do? But while Egan stole the limelight once more, he was more than matched in the first half by Juventus's Andrew Zinni who faded later, however, due to two heavy knocks which winded him badly.

Both were the result of clashes with Steve Blair. He scored his goal after the second of those clashes, remarking after the game: "I deserved some consolation, I reckon," but found it difficult to catch his breath for the rest of the match.

Zinni reacted to his first knock like a fighter stung into anger by a heavy blow. He darted goalwards in the 10th minute, only to be chopped down by John Yzendoorn.

Juventus worked an elaborate free-kick play which ended with Fabio Incantulopo belting a hard shot into the net for the equaliser.

Returning from his second injury, Zinni bobbed up inside the area for a header that flashed just wide and shortly afterwards, he sprinted past Bobby Russell in a promising attack, but Russell mercilessly flogged him from behind and was shown the yellow card.

But Zinni was a glutton for punishment. He kept on coming forward, risking greater pain. In the 25th minute he ran onto a long clearance from Peter Lewis, making his way into the penalty area on the right. Postecoglou was with

Egan gets 50th NSL goal

him, and, indeed, connected with a hefty shoulder challenge.

Zinni, however, already had connected with his shot, which flashed across goalkeeper Peter Laumets and landed in the net just inside the far post, putting Juventus into the lead.

Juventus had started with a man-marking plan which saw Brian Brown on Egan, Lewis and Eddie Campbell taking turns on Doug Brown, and Mike Petersen on Oscar Crino. John Dowie and Richard Miranda were back after injury — Dowie playing as sweeper and Miranda coming on to replace Petersen in the second half.

Crino had become more and more active as the game went on, so perhaps Juventus coach John Margaritis figure Miranda would mark him more tightly than Petersen had. Not so! Crino became even more dangerous.

Egan got his first goal when he ran onto the loose ball after



Egan, accompanied by Gary McDowell, celebrates his first goal

Banovic had failed to hold a low shot from Crino.

For the second goal, Egan chased a through ball played under pressure by Doug Brown. Brian Brown was beaten, so he tried to bring Egan down from behind but failed.

Egan kept running and with Banovic at his mercy, placed the ball neatly past him, into the net.

Kanesoulis disappointed

John Kanesoulis, 19, is a disappointed and confused young man.

After showing promising form last season, he had hoped to be chosen as Alan Davidson's successor in the Hellas midfield. Instead, Hellas bought Gary McDowell from Footscray J.U.S.T., leaving Kanesoulis on the bench and worrying about his place in the national youth squad.

He can stay at Hellas and sit on the bench, or join another club where he can develop his talent by playing.

"I haven't had a contract at Hellas for more than a year, now they want me to sign one, but they don't want to give me a maximum transfer fee clause," Kanesoulis said. "I'll leave it for another week before making a decision."

Footscray J.U.S.T. offered him a new car as an enticement and he also has had approaches from Sydney Olympic, Juventus and Heidelberg.

Fullback now goalscorer

St. George 3 N. Rosebud 0

Scorers: Koczka 5th and 47th Cotton 40th min.
Venue: St. George Stadium
Crowd: 1100
Cautions: Boogaard (Newc.)
Referee: P. Rempley

A remarkably talented gangling youth came, saw and plucked Rosebuds clean with a performance worthy of a hat-trick.

The youngster, Andrew Koczka, went through a massive metamorphosis in a week.

The previous Sunday he starred for the Saints at left fullback against Marconi; now he was head and shoulders above all the other players — at central striker. And he grabbed two goals plus paved the way for the third to add emphasis to all that.

Koczka's presence was felt early. In the 9th minute a precise Slater cross found his



Andrew Dettre

head and he glanced the ball to the far corner.

Newcastle threatened on the rare occasion, using the strong wind. Dave Jones's powerful free kick from some 30 metres brought off a great Greedy save.

Then a few minutes later, in the 40th, the Saints went further ahead. A cross was headed on by Koczka but the Newcastle defence scrambled the ball clear straight to Cotton whose drive almost ripped the net down.

Early in the second half the points became firmly wrapped up. In the 47th minute a Skeen free kick was backheaded by

Man of the match:
ANDREW KOZKA
(St. George)

Barton — and there was Koczka stretching with a dive to head home, just above sea level, the third.

Koczka could have got one more in the 58th when, in a good position, he slipped his pass to Barton but his shot sailed over the bar.

Here and there Newcastle threatened, too, but the St. George defence, led by Ratcliffe and Greedy, stood firm.

Newly-signed Vic Bozanic handed in his calling card in the 65th minute with a free kick of awesome power, almost breaking the goalpost in half.

But by that time the game was comfortably won and the Rosebuds wilted.

To be quite frank, St. George played well only after 2-0 when their jitters were replaced by a new, confident mood, allowing them to swing the ball around as prescribed by Frank Arok.

Until then there was little between the teams — apart from the quite mercurial Koczka who, given Jim Shouder's inflexible views, may play for the Soccerbros before he plays for the youth team...

Newcastle's Owens showed solid ability as a sweeper and was easily the most impressive man of the visitors.

Bozanic will be a big asset for St. George when he is match fit — even in the unfamiliar milieu of midfield.

Dez Marston is still far too good a player to be tossed in for only 17 minutes of play — especially if Koczka stays in the attack where he, more than any other, could form a telepathic understanding with the ageing maestro.

Latif match-winner again

S.G. Cross 1 WA-Hellas 0

Scorer: Latif 20th.
Venue: Chaplin Reserve.
Crowd: about 1,200.
Cautions: Honeyman, Atsalar, Stamatiopoulos (WA); Faulkner (SGC).

Referee: Jim Fearn 8. Ossie Latif scored the winner for the second successive week as Sunshine-George Cross continues to make critics rethink their pre-season claims that the side would struggle as it did last year.

Sure, 'Cross isn't without its problems, but it already has shown enough this year to suggest that it is much improved from 1984.

However, unless it can take more of its chances then its inability to finish could cost the club dearly before the season's end.

Sunshine-George Cross should have wrapped up this



Mick Mitten

game in the second half but as the match drew to a close the pressure from West Adelaide Hellas mounted. And when the final whistle blew, it came as welcome relief to the home side.

Latif scored the winner against Brisbane City in the previous game and the Sunshine-George Cross forward struck the telling blow here in the 20th minute.

John Campelj combined well with Roger Bain down the left hand side. Bain struck a low cross into the packed Hellas goalmouth and the ball eluded everyone except the ever alert Latif who tapped it

Man of the match:
STEVE RICHARDSON
(Geo. Cross)

in from one metre out for the only goal of the game.

Hellas forward George Konstandopoulos had blown a great chance to put the visitors ahead in the 7th minute when he broke clear and confronted only by advancing Lou Kastner, lobbed the ball over the bar.

Two minutes later, Jeff Faulkner set the ball up for Latif who mistook his shot from two metres, enabling Hellas goalkeeper Gary Sproul to save.

In the 43rd minute, the 'Cross should have increased its lead when Faulkner robbed Hellas sweeper Graham Honeyman and passed to Latif

who shot wildly, blasting the ball well over the bar.

Luck deserted the home team in the 59th minute when midfielder Noel Mitten blocked an attempted clearance by Honeyman. The ball bobbed over stranded Sproul but to the relief of the Hellas goalkeeper, it also cleared his bar, nestling safely in behind the goal.

In the 64th minute, a fine interpassing move involving Mitten and Latif set up Carl Gilder who blasted in a shot from three metres only to see Sproul parry superbly.

Hellas midfielder Theo Stamatiopoulos was unlucky not to level in the 71st minute when fellow midfielder Ian McGregor headed down a cross and Stamatiopoulos had his shot deflected out for a corner.

Despite the late pressure by Hellas, stopper Steve Richardson stood firm against all comers and gave a commanding display.

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APIA youngsters 'lose their cool'

APIA 1 Penrith 0

Scorer: Caban 34th. Venue: Lambert Park. Cautions: Brogan and Toohey (both Penrith). Referee: Doensau 7.

Even before the opening whistle, Penrith displayed a good measure of uneasiness about its chances against APIA, misgivings which were certainly justified by the trend of the game.

In an apparently desperate effort to beef up his team's firepower, coach Willie Wallace switched Dave McIntosh from his accustomed position in the middle of the defence to a central striker's position.

McIntosh may be a strapping big fellow, with muscles everywhere and a giant heart, but he sadly lacked the finesse which characterises strikers of quality.

It was thus that APIA managed to get control from the start and never relinquished its hold on the two points.



Peter Scott

So it seemed to us in the press box, anyway. However, Wallace was quietly bitter about being on the receiving end of perceived refereeing injustice.

First though, APIA took the lead in the 36th minute, Caban slamming into the net a goal from an extremely acute angle.

The first cause for Penrith's chagrin was a long looping header by Randall Easthorpe which dipped under the crossbar — only to be disallowed for an offside infringement by McIntosh, a decision which was hotly disagreed with.

Penrith had the odd oppor-

Man of the match:
TERRY BUTLER
(APIA)

tunity here and there, but the match was marked by APIA's inability to convert its chances into goals.

Skipper Terry Butler, who was the outstanding player on the pitch, summed it up succinctly: "Our strikers are young, lightning fast, but not cool enough to take their chances," he said.

"All the misses make our defenders edgy and they try to push up front to score. In those circumstances spaces open up, panic sets in from counter attacks and if we're only one up we could easily lose a point

Well, it didn't happen on this occasion, but the APIA skipper's prescription of "Practice, practice and more prac-

tice" for his strikers, seems to be wise advice. But not all were disappointed — certainly not recent signing Tom McCulloch who is taking to his new team like duck to water and should be one of the shining stars of the 1985 season.

And what about Penrith? Not a team to evoke much joy among spectators with its uncompromising style of play and somewhat primitive repertoire of basic skills and tactical plays. But they will make every single team fight tooth and nail for the premiership points — at home or away.

Overseas

Argentina international Osvaldo Ardiles celebrated his return after a year-long lay-off through injury with a goal against Southampton.

Brazil will play six friendlies as it warms up for its World Cup opener on June 2 — against Colombia (twice), Peru, Uruguay, Argentina and Ecuador.

After eight years he's an overnight sensation

LOU DENYS NAMES HIS ALL-STARS



• Lou Denys climbs up the near post to foil Steve McCombe of Croydon in a State League game. At left is Green Gully's Willie Vassalls.

By PETER DESIRA

It has taken Lou Denys eight years to become an overnight sensation!

Two successive man of the match performances and rave notices by opponents about the saves that Denys made have catapulted the goalkeeper into the national scene's spotlight and he is now being spoken of as the most under-rated goalkeeper in Australia.

Denys himself does not know what all the fuss is about — he feels he is doing little different to what he has done for the past eight years and for him the first two league games in question, against Footscray and South Melbourne, are being looked upon no different from the 184 other league games that he has played since joining Green Gully in a transfer with a twist in 1977.

"I do feel good this year and I haven't lost any fitness but that is basically it. I have not been doing anything different but I suppose you do go through times when you have a high", Denys said last week. His attitude is typical of the way he looks at goalkeeping — regarded by many as an art and by others as prerequisite for madness.

"I just believe in doing the job with the minimum of fuss. If you don't need to dive spectacularly six feet in the air to make a save you don't do it."

"I believe a goalkeeper's main asset is his positioning. If he does that well and keeps fit,

all he needs after that is confidence.

"The reserve keepers and I do a bit of training on our own but I've always done the hard running, and playing in practice matches — the short sharp stuff — with the rest of the squad."

"With goalkeeping if you're a good one, you don't lose the ability no matter what goes on. "Naturally, you go through low spots and then it's up to the individual to pick himself up within the shortest period and get back to his best. "It's a position where you can't hide and it always comes back to concentration and making sure that the positioning is right."

Denys was signed from St Albans in a player swap deal valued at \$5000.

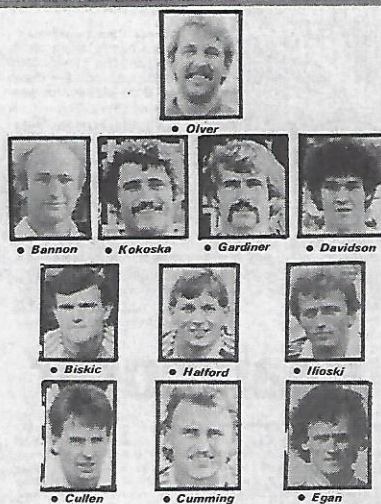
But in actual fact the players who crossed the other way had a short lived stay at St Albans and many from that camp still maintain that Denys was the biggest steal Gully will ever make.

Eight years on Denys is looking at making his 200th league appearance for the club this season. He has played 156 matches for Gully in the State League and 31 to date in the NSL.

Barring injuries, he should reach that target in round 16 in the match against arch rival George Cross. His attitude towards reaching that milestone is similar to the way he has treated the recent media attention directed at him.

"I've never taken too much notice of statistics — it's nice to achieve these things but the way to look at that particular match is from a club and team point of view — hopefully everyone will go out on that day to make it a win... like any other week."

"Maybe when I reach my 300th game it will mean more to me — I'll let you know." Denys last week (Wednesday, March 27) celebrated his



34th birthday but there are no thoughts of calling it a day yet. "I feel I'll be around for a fair while yet. I have never felt fitter, and provided the mind is willing and as long as I keep on enjoying it, there is no reason why I should think about retiring."

"As long as the desire is there I enjoy the challenge."

"I'm not looking any further forward than this year — we have a pretty good squad and if we start getting a few results, all the effort one puts in becomes worthwhile."

Considering the tone of optimism, how does Denys think that Green Gully will fare this season?

"Look, it's pretty hard to judge so early in the campaign. We held our own in the night series and I suppose that is a good indication."

"In the first league game against Hellas I felt Charlie Egan a bit too much room at times."

"But with the midfield tightening up and once we sort out the sweeper position and get the pattern sorted out, we'll give it a great run."

"Our forward line certainly has great potential and we've got a hell of a better team than last year."

Going back on the eight years that Denys has played for Green Gully, can he come up with the ideal all-star team of Green Gully players over that period?

"It's pretty hard to compare individuals playing in different periods but the team that won the Ampol Cup, beating Heidelberg 5-0, perhaps stands out."

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in my mind as the best team I have played in."

"It gave me the most enjoyment from a team point of view — there weren't just one or two players that shone individually. The whole side's spirit was tremendous."

"You've got to remember that we were a State League side taking on a National League side taking on a National League giant and we thrashed them on commitment, skill, team effort — in every department, in fact."

"That year (1983) we won the league as well so it was no mean achievement."

The side that beat Heidelberg 5-0 on February 27, 1983 was: Denys; Peter Lewis, Stuart Cannell, Steve Short, David Hogen, Peter Boyle (Kit Greechan), Willie Vassall, David Smallman, Jimmy Williams; Paul Lewis, Bobby Toal. Coach: Len McEndry.

When pressed a bit further to name his all-star side, Denys makes only two changes, bringing in John Gardiner at sweeper and including Gus MacLeod as Paul Lewis' partner in attack.

Denys however, hastens to add that none of this year's squad can be considered for that team as "it's too early in the piece".

Naming an all-star side from the players he has played against is a much more pleasant task for the goalkeeper. After being given the chance to think about, he comes up with four players he faced both in the State and National League, six he met in last year's NSL and one he had many battles against in State League but has now retired.

That player is none other than Steve Kokoska, for many years the centreback at Sunshine and in the latter stages of his career at Melbourne Croatia before being forced to pack it in because of a severe knee injury before Croatia was promoted to the NSL.

"There are plenty of good centrebacks like Steve Blair for that position, but Kokoska stood out as a tough defender always good in the air when he came up for corners and set pieces", Denys said.

The best goalkeeper he has seen in the National League is

Jeff Oliver — and it is the way that the Heidelberg keeper goes about his job in a similar fashion to Denys that has impressed the Green Gully stalwart.

"Consistency has been Oliver's hallmark. His form has never wavered and again he goes about doing his job without any spectacular backflips. He is good in the air, good on the ground and generally a very clean handler of the ball."

"Maybe his no-fuss attitude has been the reason why it has taken so long for him to become recognised but I am glad he is being talked about so much lately — he deserves the recognition", Denys said.

In his All-Star defence, Denys selects Vince Bannon and Alan Davidson for the full-back spots.

"Bannon was a tough defender who liked to overlap and send plenty of balls into the area that caused problems. Davidson is in a similar mould of course with plenty of skill too."

The sweeper behind Kokoska is John Gardiner, who apart from spending 1981 and 82 at Gully, was on the opposing side of the fence plenty of times with Melbourne Croatia.

"You just couldn't go past Gardiner for that position," Denys said.

In midfield, it's a combination of hard working players with a fair dash of skill.

"Carl Halford impressed me as a fighter and potential goalscorer. I'm wary of players like him who are always liable to have a strike at goal he nearly scored against me when we last played Hellas."

"Josip Biskic is another midfielder I like, he impressed me in the State League and was again good last year."

"And on the other side, Zoran Ilioski is another midfielder who stands out in my books."

Up front it is similarly the "beavers" that have caused Denys the most worries and his final selections go to Tommy Cumming, to partner Charlie Egan in the strikers' position and Robbie Cullen to take the winger's role.

"Egan is a pest, one of the nippiest buggers around."

"Cumming I have played against many times at State and NSL level and there is no doubt he is a class player."

"Cullen's form in the past couple of years has been brilliant but he also gave us plenty of trouble in the days he was at Preston Makedonia and George Cross in the State League."

So there you have it — an All-Star side, good enough to take on allcomers. It is: Jeff Oliver; Vince Bannon, John Gardiner, Steve Kokoska, Alan Davidson; Josip Biskic, Robbie Cullen, Tommy Cumming, Charlie Egan.

It may take a bit of running around to get them but maybe Gully should try the exercise when the time comes for the club to consider a testimonial for Denys.

After all the hard work he has done in the club, it may be Gully's turn to return the compliment. And if that is not enough, maybe the big rap that he gives the club ought to do it.

"Green Gully is one of the best clubs to be with, not only playing-wise but also from the managerial and coaching side of things."

"It was raw in the first year in State League back in 1977 but it has built strongly from there and looked after its players in the meantime."

"I don't know of a player, who has ever regretted being here."

—From the
"Gully Gazette"



Tommy English

Olympian \$400,000 forward

By PAUL MOON

Although Canberra City plans did not pay a transfer fee for recent recruit Tommy English, he was valued at \$400,000 just two and a half years

Born in Crenchester, a small, rural town west of England, English signed professional for Coventry City in June, 1979 after a apprenticeship.

He made his first division debut just two later, in the opening game of the 1979-80 at Stoke City, and was to play 35 semi during that campaign, scoring 12 goals. In March, 1980, the penetrative youth gained selection for international youth. He wore England's jersey on five occasions against Denmark (twice), Portugal, Holland (the only goal) and Poland (a 2-1 win in the UEFA Youth Tournament final).

Team-mates during those games included M. J. G. Mabbitt, Tommy Caton, Andy Patey, today the toast of San Siro and Flavia was also on Coventry's books, yet for 1980-81, manager Gordon Milne preferred to play alongside under-21 international Thompson as the Sky Blues' reserves. But, as the extent of Hately's potential sink, he was the next to be promoted to the first team and Coventry, now guided by David, changed its style to accommodate aggressive Steve Whitton, English found him the cold.

Milne, who had taken charge of Leicester City, had a high regard for English and obtained a player-exchange deal also involving under-21 international Jim Melrose. B. valued at \$400,000.

English made 29 appearances and scored 11 goals as Leicester won promotion to Division One in 1982-83 term, but never left with "The Filberts".

The following season he played in 18 games — 14 as substitute. At the end of the season, he was placed on the free transfer list.

During the next nine months, English was at Bristol City, Rochdale, Plymouth, Ar. Colchester United, but did not agree to any of them.

In the last few weeks before moving to Australia, English was valued at \$400,000. English was valued at \$400,000.

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By
LAURIE SCHWAB

Talking about Zico, Oscar Crino marvels at the great Brazilians' ability to score from outside the penalty area. "In today's football you've got to be able to score from outside the box because defences are so tight — and that's what the great players are good at," said Crino, extending his praise to Michel Platini and Ossie Ardiles for the same reason.

But the opposite seems to be true of Crino's team, South Melbourne Hellas, the reigning Australian champion. It's all Doug Brown and Charlie Egan there. Not many goals from outside the box. "Yeah, that's true," says Crino, "but most of the goals come through the midfield, and Egan or Brown just apply the finishing touch. Our strikers get more chances than we midfielders anyway, simple because we're further away from the goal, but at Hellas we can all score."

Sure, they can score, and indeed, Crino, Alan Davidson and even defender John Zvendorn got vital goals in the finals last year, but hard statistics suggest that without Egan and Brown, Hellas would struggle. In 1983, Egan and Brown scored 27 goals between them, while all other players combined managed only 14 goals. Last season, Brown and Egan contributed 33 while all the others added 26, including finals. So far this year, before last Sunday, Egan had scored six and Brown one of Hellas's seven-goal total!

Yet in midfield, Hellas boasts two Socceros — Crino and Murphy — plus Carl Halford; it had Alan Davidson before he joined Notts Forest late last year, and now it has star recruit Gary McDowell. If Boneik and Platini can score with gay abandon from midfield, why don't our best midfielders do likewise?

Crino hazards a guess: "In Europe the defenders know all the forwards' tricks, and they're capable of closing it up, so the goals have to come from behind most of the time."

"Defences are weaker here. At Hellas we exploit the opposition's weaknesses at the back, enabling our strikers to get the goals, but I repeat that at Hellas, we can all score."

Perhaps Crino is right about the quality of our defences. Last season, only six NSL clubs had to rely on getting the bulk of their goals from deep positions — Adelaide City Juventus, APIA, Brisbane City, Melita Eagles, Newcastle-Rosebud and Makedonia. The strikers of the other 18 clubs beat opposing defences often enough to justify their positions.

But at Hellas, what would happen if Egan and Brown were to miss five or six games? "I don't know," Crino begins hesitantly. "We've got youngsters who could perhaps play there." Who? "Peter Vardakis, who was left back in the youth team last year is apparently being tried up front. Ken Murphy can play there. Even Gary McDowell could be OK there, but I hope the need won't arise."

Crino is over his injury; the players have, he says, pulled out of their early-season slump; McDowell is settling nicely into Davidson's right-midfield position and the team is hungry again. "We'll win the



• Oscar Crino gets the better of Zarko Odzakovic

championship again unless we have a terrible lot of injuries or a big slump in form," Crino said.

And where will the competition come from? "Makedonia," he answers, "and Sydney Olympic and Sydney City because they always go in and fight for everything. Heidelberg, too, if they can carry on their good form of last year. George Christopoulos will help them a lot."

Apart from aiming for a second successive championship, Crino also looks forward to a busy international season. Ironically, the international commitments of Crino, Murphy and probably Egan, is likely to minimise Hellas's chances of winning the championship, although Crino won't say so. There will be much strain on the players, the risk of injury is high, fatigue will take its toll — but all that will hamper not only Hellas but every club that provides more than one player to the national squad.

Crino was the big "find" of the Socceros' 1984 world tour, on which they won three games, drew one and lost eight. He had, of course, played in the 1981 World Youth Championship finals — quite brilliantly, we might add. However, Socceroo coach Frank Arok was not convinced Crino had the required qualities. He had no argument with Crino's remarkable skill and vision, but he was searching also for that mean streak which he values in his players — the flaring nostrils, stomping hooves. The eye of the tiger.

From all reports, the tiger in Crino roared in Europe, and Arok was well pleased.

Was Arok right in his apprehension? "Maybe he hadn't seen me much, or he saw me at a bad time," he ventures. "If a coach sees you constantly, he might change his impression of you. But I can take criticism, and I take that criticism the same way as I take compliments. I just go ahead and concentrate on my game. I just keep trying to better myself. The greatest coach in the world can come and make a comment about me, but I'll just keep working along as I always have, trying to be as good as I possibly can, on the field and at training."

What's it all mean? Does he feel he has convinced

Now Crino's got the eye of the tiger

Arok or not? Is his place in the national team now secure? Has he established himself?

"Not really, I've forgotten about the tour already. I do not live in the past. Whenever you are called into the squad, you have to treat it very seriously and do your best and just hope you stay there."

Can he get the time off? As we announced in last week's issue, Arok has mapped out a 16-week schedule of training and matches for his Socceros. "When the tour was on last year, I was told by my employers the best thing to do was to resign, and reappear when I got back. I didn't go back though, and now I have a new job as a storeman in a safety equipment warehouse. I'll just have to see how it goes. Luckily, I'm not married. If you have a wife and kids, your job is more important, but even without a job, I still would be getting money from soccer and I wouldn't be creating hardship for anyone."

Everything the Socceros do this year will have the World Cup as its goal. If Australia wins the Oceania qualifying tournament, it will meet Scotland, Spain or Wales — which came into contention last week — for the right to enter the finals in Mexico next year. Spain, according to Crino, would be the most difficult opponent. "They are very good players, and they get tremendous support over there — more than 1000,000, probably — which means that it would be very hard to get a result over there," he says.

Most of the Socceros benefited from their 1984



• Brown



• Egan

Would Hellas be finished without Egan and Brown?

world tour because they experienced various different style of football in matches against Udinese (Zico's team), PSV Eindhoven, China, Rangers and Aston Villa among others and while they will get even more experience in two international tournaments soon, the World Cup will be completely different — much more intense, more competitive, more defensive. The Socceros will be confronted by players of superior skill and comparable fierceness.

Crino is unmoved. He's used to being hit hard of late — and he's learned how to hit back. "My nature is that I try to play football. But I get physical if people hit me, or try to hit me intentionally," he says. "But as for hard play — it's something you live with. People play hard against Hellas all the time, because we're the champions."

It's taken Crino almost three months to get into gear. During his holidays, he fell and hit a rock at Frankston beach. He had stitches to a cut to the shin, but infection set in and the injury immobilised him for a month.

"I missed out on our pre-season training and because I had to keep my right leg up all the time, to protect the stitches, I lost a lot of muscle. That meant I lost stamina and co-ordination. When I recovered, I had to catch up on the pre-season training — which is two sets of ten by 100 metre sprints every session. I did that over two or three weeks, and I also built up the muscle with squats, weights and uphill running over a 5 km course near my home in Springvale. I felt myself coming good against Makedonia two weeks ago. I felt stronger, and I didn't have the stiffness in the leg after the game. When you've been out for so long, you lose touch, and only good hard matches can give it back to you."

Crino, the master of the overhead kick, won the Australian best under 21 player award in 1983 and still is only 22. He was born in Argentina, and joined Footscray J.U.S.T. as an 11-year-old after coming to Australia. He was there until he was 15, moved on to Juventus where he played his first senior matches, and then to the Australian Institute of Sport team. Next stop was Tung Sing in Hong Kong from where he then Hellas coach Kale Rasic bought him in 1983. Rasic also recruited Ken Murphy from Melbourne Croatia, Doug Brown from Makedonia, John Zvendorn from Heidelberg-Alexander and Bobby Russell from Adelaide City Juventus.

Crino had represented Victoria from under 14 to youth levels and played alongside Vlatko Belic, Steve Blair, Paul Drinczyk and Charlie Yankos in the Victorian youth team that won the national championship.

His older brother Carles Berbia, 28, also plays soccer. He was with Juventus in the State League and now plays for the young Richmond-Alemannia team that includes promising young players Tattos, Delegras, and Goullias brothers, Crino's younger brother, Walter, 17, is a promising tennis player.

On the world tour, Crino had a few problems with his feet. There were suggestions that he actually has flat feet — a suggestion he denies with a laugh. "I am very happy with my feet," he says. But didn't mass-ear Charlie Jurisic give him arched supports to wear in his boots? "Charlie might have suggested it," Crino says. "But the problem was that we had too many games and a lot of us complained about sore feet. That's all."

Crino says Alan Davidson's departure to England hit the Hellas team hard. "I'm glad he's gone on to better things though, and I wish him well," he says. "Hellas bought Gary McDowell from J.U.S.T. to fill in at right midfield and he's a very good player — very powerful — although he hasn't played in that position much."

Finally, words of praise from Crino for Hellas's youngest player, Angie Postecoglou. "He's come along really well — much quicker than anyone would have thought. He's well established in the team now, and he'll be there for many years." "He's quick, he's got a good left peg, he reads the game and he's hard to get past. He concentrates well, he's reliable and he gets on with the job."

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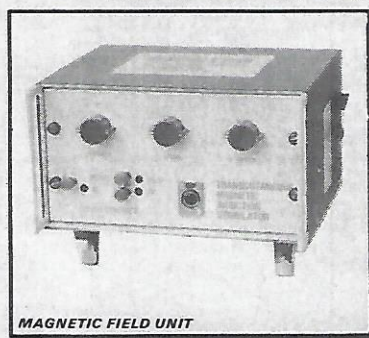


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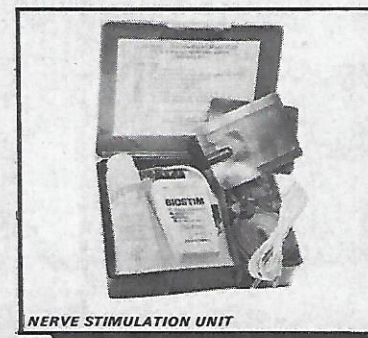


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MANLY OR MELITA FOR TITLE?

Next Saturday at Chopin Park, Polonia and Canterbury will open this year's proceedings in the New South Wales State League. Neither side is favoured to take the honors in 1985 despite Polonia's good showing in the pre-season competition to reach the final.

In fact Canterbury has by far the better chance with the addition of four players some two weeks before the kick-off in the State League.

It is always difficult to predict the outcome of any football match, but it is far more difficult to predict this year's outcome. In the past, we had tough sides like Croatia, Melita, Saints or Olympic to contend with.

This year, at least on paper no less than five teams will go into battle with odds slightly favouring Manly Warringah and Melita Eagles.

Sutherland, Canterbury, Rockdale Ilinden and Avala are the next group of teams with a fair chance of getting into the top four, while the rest will have to do a lot of work to stay in touch.

Melita Eagles with its side back to full strength should win at Jensen Park to make sure of a good start in its quest for a return to the National League. This is the full programme of the opening round of the NSW State League with predicted results in brackets.

FAIRY MEADOW — MANLY WARRINGAH (Manly)

Memorial Park at Corrimal will see the introduction of State League competition for Fairy Meadow. It could not have been a more difficult task.

tism for the League newcomer.

Manly is intent on getting to the NSL and the best way to get there is to start with a win. Its star-studded line-up with Willie Murray as the latest addition will take no prisoners as it tackles Fairy Meadow.

The locals have some fine players in Morlando, Fontana, Baker and Gerald. With Warwick Young in goal (ex St George) the locals are not without chance. The side has already beaten three State League sides in the Pre-season competition and one should not see reason for an automatic defeat against Manly, despite this awesome advantage the Seasideers have in footballing talent.

I feel that Manly should win but by an odd goal!

Mona Park: URUGUAYAN AUBURN — KU-RING-GAI (draw)

This is going to be an interesting game.

Neither side has the firepower to succeed with Ku-Ring-Gai having a far better defensive record than its opponent. On paper Ku-Ring-Gai should win, but I cannot see the visitors do better than a draw with only two men up front — Craig Bass and Neal Hunter.

On the other hand Uruguayan Auburn has only Tony O'Shane as the real threat to Ku-Ring-Gai and that is very little against one of the best defences in the League.

Knight Park: AVALA — ROCKDALE ILINDEN (draw)

Avala is back in business with a brand new team and a brand new coach. Will that be enough against the Grand Final winner — Ilinden?

Despite its pre-season win I cannot see Avala do better

than a draw against Rockdale Ilinden. There are just too many good players with Rockdale to concede more than a point against Avala.

Avala will rely on Glen Jeffery to carry its attack, but had Rockdale had its full complement of front runners then the Pendulum would definitely swing Ilinden's way.

Chopin Park: POLONIA — CANTERBURY (Canterbury)

Pre-season finalist Polonia will face a tough introduction to the start of the State League at Chopin Park. Canterbury with the addition of Radman, Kirwan, Pena, Silvan, Borges and Basterfield might be a trifle short of practice but will be too much for an under strength Polonia.

In fact the difference between the two sides will be in the South American department. It is still incomprehensible to see Nello Borges play State League. He would have to be one of the most skilful players around and he also has a fair amount of pace. How on earth he missed getting a place amongst the Sydney City players or even more amongst the Croatia line-up is beyond me.

Marcos Silva, Paul Kirwan, Louis Dounis and the rest of the gold and blues will be just a shade too much for Polonia.

Narrabeen Fitness Camp: NARRABEEN-SUTHERLAND (Sutherland)

Warringah Narrabeen has an outside chance of snatching a point in this match. It hasn't won a match to date in a pre-season competition but must be heartened by the last match these two sides played at Narrabeen. The home team won 2-1.

However on this occasion Sutherland is bringing Craig Hall and Peter Beggs, two men who did not front during the last encounter and who could make a considerable difference.

NSW State League preview with ALEX VESIC



Narrabeen coach is adamant that this is going to be the start of better things at Narrabeen. "We should win," said the likeable Gokovic.

Johnny Lavin, keen to start

on a winning note feels likewise.

Jensen Park: BANKSTOWN — MELITA EAGLES (Melita)

Bankstown will not be able

to hold Melita in the opening game of 1985 at Jensen Park. I feel that the major factor contributing to Melita's victory will stem from the failure of Bankstown team to get fit to last the 90 minutes encounter.

The last time these two sides met Bankstown looked good for about 60 minutes then slowly eased to a walk. If it is to repeat that performance against this Melita side then defeat is the only possible result.

Billy Griffiths and Ray Farugia should be the deciding issue with Kenny Wilson popping up for a set play or two to add a goal or two.

This is the full list of matches this weekend. Saturday, 6 April 1985

Chopin Park: Polonia — Canterbury
Sunday, 7 April

Mona Park: Uruguay — Ku-Ring-Gai

Knight Park: Avala — Ilinden

Memorial Park: Fairy Meadow — Manly Warringah
Narrabeen Fitness Camp: Narrabeen — Sutherland

Jensen Park: Bankstown — Melita Eagles



Avala goalkeeper Peter Ahrens in action. His experience will assist Avala this season.

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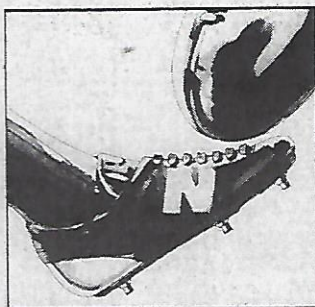
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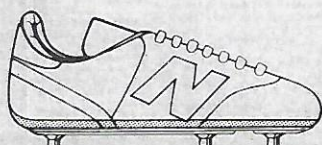
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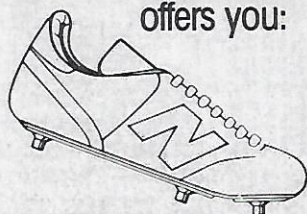
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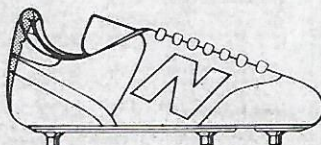
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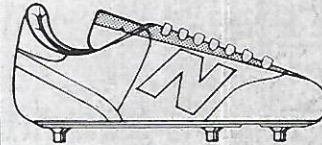
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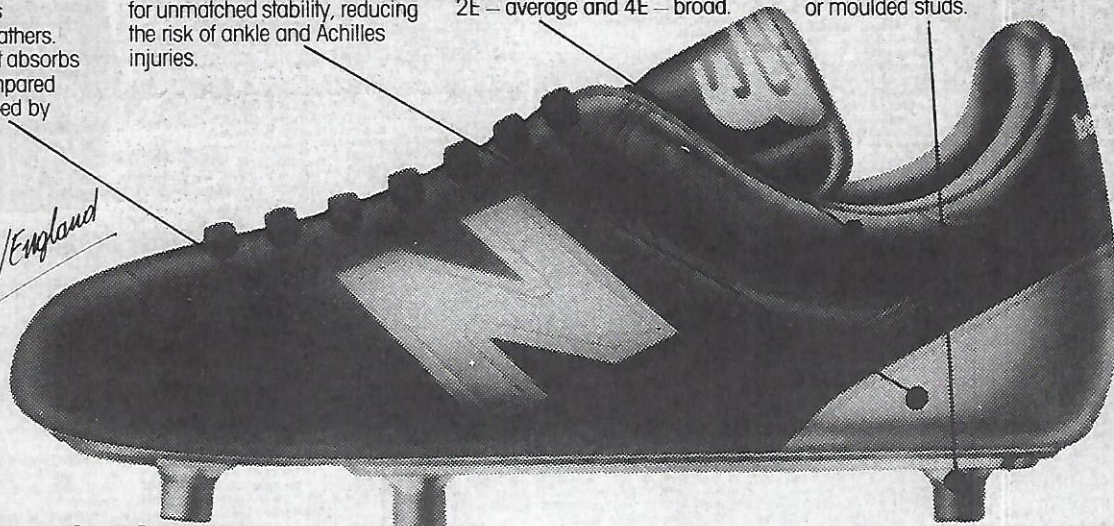
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FALCONS SET TO SIGN BLASBY

Peter Blasby was expected to join Morwell Falcons as we went to press and should make his debut in Falcons' clash with Springvale City at North Crinigan Reserve on Saturday.

Blasby went to Morwell last night (Tuesday) and was expected to accept terms. Falcons and Melbourne Croatia already have agreed on a \$5,000 transfer fee for Blasby.

With Blasby in goal, behind Falcons' already improving defence, the Latrobe Valley outfit will take a ton of breaking down and coach Jimmy Dunn can look forward to a second successive season of success.

"Falcons are a fine side. They outclassed us and you can put that in print," said Knox City coach Duncan Smith after Falcons' 3-0 win at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday.

Smith is a certain starter in

the Knox line-up on Sunday against Box Hill at Wembley Park.

The Hillmen will miss mid-fielder Andy Hughes, sent off against Suburbs last weekend and left back Alan Roodhouse is extremely doubtful. Roodhouse has a back complaint which worried him last year. It's flared up again and he's been advised to rest.

Knox striker Milan Kojic also is suffering from a back complaint and could be out of action for a further three weeks.

St Albans Dinamo hopes to sign midfielder Zlatko Lerotic from Royal Richmond in time for Sunday's clash with Fawknar at Smith Reserve. Dinamo and Royal Richmond

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

have agreed on an \$1,100 transfer fee for Lerotic.

Despite coming off injured against Ringwood Wilhelmnia last weekend, Fawknar ace Joe Palinkas and Bruno Corzella will line up against Dinamo and Fawknar will record its third successive league win.

Wilhelmnia shouldn't get much joy from its trip to Raleigh Reserve on Sunday to face home side Polonia. With Janusz Przybyla back on the goal trail, the Wilhelmnia defence is in for a testing time here.

Thomastown secretary Vince Tavoraro made an unexpected appearance in the first team last weekend and turned on a fine display in Thomastown's 3-1 win over Springvale City. Tavoraro was called up by coach Joe Wilson as Thomastown had seven first teamers unavailable. Maurizio Comar missed the game as he was getting married; Nino Di Martino, Brian Coyne and Tony Cosentino were suspended; while Andy Smale, Fred Beller and Vic Salvatore were injured.

Coyne should return for Sunday's match with Northcote at John Cain Reserve and there's a chance that Salvatore could be back.

Croydon's clash with Pines at Croydon Park on Sunday looms as the game of the round.

PINES WANT MCCLUNIE

By MICK MITTEN

F'ston Pines 2 Polonia 2

Venue: Monterey Reserve. Scorers: Webster 56th, Thomas 70th (FP); Przybyla 83rd, 86th (Pol).

Rick Janssen, signed from Ringwood Wilhelmnia last week, made his senior debut with Frankston Pines but it was tall Polonia goalkeeper Leszek Dzielakowski who stole the show.

The game was full of ironies. When the teams met at Monterey Reserve last year Polonia goalie Mike Fryzser gave away two silly goals and the match ended in a 3-3 draw. Here, Polonia's goalkeeper saved his side from a bad beating, but Pines only have themselves to blame for not setting this contest once they went 2-0 up. Misses by Ally Dine and Stan Wagner in particular, stopped Pines from knocking in four or five goals.

Pines' problems in the finishing department could be solved by tall striker Leszek Dzielakowski. Pines are in the process of negotiating his release from Melbourne Croatia.

Polonia had no such problems when it came to finishing. Janusz Przybyla had scored three goals in 10 minutes during the reserves

Dinamo 2 Albion 0
Scorer: Morovic 40th, 43rd.
Venue: Churchill Reserve. THE standard of refereeing in the State League must be looked into seriously by the Victorian Soccer Federation and the time to start is now!

I believe that is a must after watching this match settled by a poor decision and seeing referee Andy Frangou confuse spectators and players alike with a number of questionable judgements right throughout the 90 minutes.

On top of that, the referee booked five players mostly for token dissent yet missed a number of late tackles and serious offences throughout the game.

Albion's chances of getting anything out of this match went blocked by the wall, but the ball rebounded to Dennis Morovic who fired a goal into the roof of the net giving Charlie Cipri no chance.

The finish by Morovic was better than what anyone can expect at State League level and no credit should be taken off him for his superb shot, but in my books the foul by Gilmore was not existent - the player tackled fairly and emerged cleanly with the ball.

Dinamo coach Joe Spoljar agreed it was a "dicey decision" and Thomastown coach Joe Wilson, an interested spectator at the game, understood exactly what Albion must have been going through. "The refereeing leaves a lot to be desired in the State League. I know how Albion must feel because we went through the same thing last week against Croydon," said "Wilson".

"We had two players sent off only on the suggestions offered to the referee by Croydon players. Going on that, Croydon could talk their way to the State League championship," he added.

Apart from the refereeing, the other talking point of this game was the surprise substitution of former Footscray JUST star and Soccer Joe Picoane in the second half. Admittedly, Picoane loves to try the impossible at times with his backflips and his fancy footwork, but his skill is

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By PETER DESIRA

undoubtedly and to see a player of his talent taken off in a team largely made up of ordinary performers, makes one wonder where the State League is heading to.

Albion started this match in whirlwind fashion but its deficient, lightweight forward line couldn't break through and it was no surprise to see Dinamo take the lead thanks to the hard work of Culina.

Culina had come close to the 27th minute with a solo run which ended with him firing into an open goal after rounding the keeper. But Picoane had chased back to clear the ball off the line.

Mistakes galore!

NUNAWADING CITY 1 (West 43rd). BROADMEADOWS 4 (Stoikos 10th, Daniels 21st, 25th, 75th). Victorian Division One match at Mahoney's Reserve, Saturday.

NUNAWADING CITY: Madjar, Remmers, Lackner (Henkel 80th), Deane, Burt, Poto, Greenwald, Nallos, West, Middlemist, Mullist. Coach: P. Nallios.

BROADMEADOWS: McRae, Smart, De-Sa, Higham, Vizzini, Watson (Slinic 64th), Daniels, Blair, Stoikos, Perkins, Griffiths, Liberto 75th, Coach: J. Sanchez.

Defensive errors were the difference between the two sides in a game that was even for long periods.

In the 10th minute, a long cross from the Broadmeadows right should have been cut out by the Nunawading City defence but instead found Con Stoikos for the far post and he had a simple header to score.

Ten minutes later, a corner on the left again studied the Nuna defence and Daniels headed in from close range.

In the 25th minute, a bad back pass left Dave Perkin with a simple job to shoot past Madjar to make it 3-0.

Just before half time, West reduced the arrears with a dipping volley from 25 metres.

Fifteen minutes from the

Morovic opened the scoring in the 40th minute following a Sveto Rastovic corner. Morovic's first shot was blocked by Cipri but the rebound went straight back to the striker who made no mistake with his second attempt.

Albion lost its composure after the break but it blew the two real scoring chances that came its way when Tommy Robertson ballooned the ball over the bar after a good lay-off from Ahyan Patsaman and Turgay Latif did likewise from an even better position in the 74th minute after receiving a through ball from Tom Purcell.

end, the Nunawading defence was caught square and Perkin ran on to a through ball, rounded Madjar and coolly netted.

WAVERLEY CITY 2 (Gameras 2) ELTHAM 1 (Schipano). Victorian Second Division match at Gardiner's Creek Reserve, Saturday.

ELTHAM: Panna 8, Sufra 6, P. Cichy 9, M. Baker 7, Hazle 8, Haul 7 (Cox 85th), Anagnostou 7, Curcija 7, (Raynes 60th), Cochran 8, Schipano 7, Morton 7.

WAVERLEY CITY: Darch 7, Coulter 8, Perree 8, Patterson 7, Dixon 7, Wilcox 7, Wilson 7, Droughe 7, Jacklin 7, Gameras 9, Cooper (Buddy 14th, 8, Turner 70th).

Waverley had the ball in the Eltham net after 10 minutes but after consulting his linesman the referee disallowed it.

Schipano put Eltham ahead and although the Eltham linesman signalled offside he was overruled and the goal stood!

Gameras equalised 10 minutes before half time and Gameras notched the winner after poor marking by the Eltham defence following a free-kick.

Eltham had newcomers John Cochran from Melbourne and George Anagnostou from Thomastown in its line-up.

SELECTIONS

VICTORIAN DIVISION ONE

Saturday: NTH DANDENONG v Caulfield City, MELBOURNE v Altona City, DOVETON v Nunawading City, Sunbury v Mornington (draw), DONCASTER v Moreland (draw), DONALD v DIALLO v Dandenong City, STH OAKLEIGH v Coburg.

Sunday: BROADMEADOWS v Richmond, WERRIBEE v Kew Park Rangers.

DIVISION TWO

Saturday: NTH GEELONG v Bell Park, DOVETON v BANGERS v Altona City, Royal Richmond v Ringwood (draw), ELTHAM v Keller, Sandringham v Waverley City (draw), SM MILDURA v Dandenong City, STH OAKLEIGH v Coburg.

DIVISION THREE

Saturday: Springvale Utd v YARRAVILLE, Essendon City v PRAHRAN CITY, BULLEN v Heidelberg, Bundoora, PORT MELBOURNE v Moorabbin.

bin City, KARING v Moorabbin, GEELONG v Yallourn, Carpio v Prahran.

DIVISION FOUR

Saturday: BALLARAT v East Brunswick, CLIFTON HILL v Ardore, Rozanna v Langwarrin (draw), BOROUGHS v Fernside, FERNIE BULL v Keyborough, Lefor Utd v Brighton (draw).

HARRY ARMSTRONG RESERVE CUP

Monday: Ardore v MORNINGTON, SUNBURY Utd v Northcote City, Bundoora v SM MORDIALLOC, Boroona v RINGWOLD CITY, BALLARAT v Broadmeadows, FAWKNAR v Nth Dandenong, DANDENONG CITY v Prahran, Coburg v NUNAWADING CITY, THOMASTOWN v Springvale City, Holland Park v ALBION ROVERS, Moorabbin v FRANKSTON PINES, CAULFIELD CITY v Kew Park Rangers, Moorabbin v MELBOURNE, WAVELEY CITY v East Brunswick, CROYDON CITY v Box Hill, RINGWOOD Utd v Langwarrin.

French breaks deadlock

By JOHN WALLACE

Northcote 0 Croydon 2

Venue: John Cain Reserve. Scorers: French 48th, J. Constantinou o.g. 63rd.

Croydon City chalked up its second State League victory against a jaded Northcote and underlined the fact that player-coach Peter Ollerton gives his men a real lift every time he comes onto the park.

Croydon's mobility and aggression made it a deserved winner, although Northcote will kick itself for scoring several excellent chances in the first half.

City, superbly marshalled at the back by Dave Singleton, Jim Tansey and Jim O'Reilly, survived long spells of Northcote pressure and yet rarely looked like being caught out. In fact, Billy Whiteside only was called upon to stretch his arms twice.

Con Dionisopoulos and Chris Bekiaris had opportunities but on each occasion O'Reilly thwarted them.

Three minutes into the second half, the deadlock was broken. A powerful cross by Mark Brown was well controlled by Graham French. Confronted by Jaun Toro, City's striker did it in style, turning his opponent the wrong way then coolly tucking the ball past John Gianopoulos.

Fifteen minutes later, the home side was well and truly sunk.

French, galloping down the wing, lifted a tantalising cross just short of Gianopoulos, Jimmy Constantinou forced to jump that few extra centimetres by tigerish Matt McDonald, knocked the ball past his own keeper.

Croydon continued to dominate without converting several chances and although Northcote fought bravely its best work was carried out in its own half of the park.

Buffalo State League standings

	W	D	L	F	A	P
FAWKNER	2	0	7	4	0	4
CROYDON	2	0	6	5	0	4
MORWELL FALCONS	2	0	6	4	0	4
BOX HILL	1	0	1	3	2	2
Western Suburbs	1	0	1	3	3	2
St. Albans Dinamo	1	0	1	3	3	2
Albion Rovers	1	0	1	2	2	2
Polonia	0	2	0	2	2	2
Thomastown	1	0	1	3	4	2
Knox City	1	0	1	2	4	2
Frankston Pines	0	1	1	2	4	1
Northcote	0	1	0	1	2	1
Springvale City	0	2	2	5	0	0
Ring. Wilhelmnia	0	2	0	7	0	0

FRANKSTON PINES 2 (Webster 56th, Thomas 70th) POLONIA 2 (Przybyla 83rd, 86th) at Monterey Reserve, Saturday.

FRANKSTON PINES: Janssen 7 — Thorlow 6, Cullen 7, Lawson 6, Fernis 7 — Cooke 7, Cumming 7, Ross 6 — Thomas 7, Webster 6, Dick 8. Coach: Danny McMilline.

POLONIA: Dzielakowski 9 — Liplarski 6, Innes 8, Smolarek 7, Kolaric 5 — Gibson 7, Avian 5, P. Czapiak (Wach 65th), G. Czapiak 7 — Warszawa 8, Auld 4 (Przybyla H.T. 8). Coach: Eddie Reid.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Dzielakowski (Pol), 2. Dick (Pines), 1. Przybyla (Pol).

ST ALBANS DINAMO 2 (Morovic 40th, 43rd) ALBION 0 at Churchill Reserve, Saturday.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: Pokas 8 — Kuzman 5 (Kustura 46th 51), Renjak 6, Brkicic 5, S. Grig 5, Pozar 5, Culina 5, Pavovic 5 (Lencar 84th), Ratnicic 6 — Radman 4, Morovic 8, Coach: Joe Spoljar.

ALBION: Cipri 6 — Geles 6 (Gart 67th), Gilmore 6, Barba 5, Douglas 5 — Best 3, Reilly 7, Picoane 6 (Alfonso 67th) — Pasamant 5, Lall 5, Robertson 4, Coach: Ray Langdale.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Culina (STAL), 2. Morovic (STAL), 1. Poto (STAL).

WESTERN SUBURBS 1 (Kakantonis 93rd) BOX HILL 0 at Ralph Reserve, Sunday.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Tachira 6 — Hamill 6, Esposito 6, Dimovski 7, Laskas 6 (Howe 65th) — Kakantonis 6, K. Korvic 6 (McLennan 72nd), Beattie 7 — McGuinness 6, Stenson 6, Bouzas 6, Coach: Jimmy Condit.

BOX HILL: Harrison 9 — Brooks 7, Basic 6, McMillan 6, McPhee 7 — Azopardo 7, Taylor 7, Hughes (sent off 19th), Ramos 8 — A. Humble 8, Vercich 7, Coach: Keith Webster.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Harrison (BH), 2. Stenson (WS), 1. Ramos (BH).

KNOX CITY 0 MORWELL FALCONS 3 (Sturton 10th, Moore 60th, Cassar 68th) at Egan Lee Reserve, Sunday.

KNOX CITY: McTurk 6 — Stoffels 5 (Loy Salsi 69th), Binsinger 9, Murray 8, Byrne 5 — Wild 4 (Lucio Salsi 61st), Pate 6, Stack 5, Tunstall 5 — Devonport 7, Pilbeam 7, Coach: Duncan Smith.

MORWELL FALCONS: Excoff 7 — O'Callaghan 7, Burns 8, Tutill 8 (Palermo 80th), Train 8 — T. van Baar 7, Moore 8, MacLean 9, Quigley 8 — Vothers 8 (Wig 85th), Coach: Jimmy Dunn.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. MacLean (MF), 2. Binsinger (Knox), 1. Train (MF).

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 0 FAWKNER 5 (Boyle 55th, Palinkas 60th, Cozzella 64th, Mancinelli 69th, Quigley 75th) at Jubilee Park, Sunday.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Lee 4 — Wemyss 7, Haupt 7, Meyer 8 (Inn 4, Bakker 80th), Corke 6 — Shannon 6, Murray 6, Burton 6 — van Egmond 4, Lange 5, Stewart 6, Coach: Cor Teuw.

FAWKNER: Terzini 9 — Angella 8, Macleod 8, Fattore 8, Hobson 8 — Quigley 8, Boyle 9 — Lia 8, Palinkas 9 (Inn), Sabatino 80th, Cozzella 9 (Inn), Quigley 8, Mancinelli 8, Coach: Gus Macleod.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Boyle (Fawk), 2. Cozzella (Fawk), 1. Palinkas (Fawk).

THOMASTOWN 3 (Dallas 26th, Flaherty 32nd, Latic 36th) SPRINGVALE CITY 1 (Bentley 70th) at Partridge Reserve, Sunday.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi 8 — Di Bernardino 7, Carfora 8, Accesi 7, N. Constantinou 7, Laki 7, Francisci 7, Dallas 6, Tavoraro 8 — Flaherty 8 (Latic 75th), Fragale 7, Coach: Joe Wilson.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Clayton 7 — G. Bannon 7, Luyten 5, Adams 8, Fitzpatrick 6, Luca 7, Bentley 8, Humble 6 (Greener 55th) — van Dintaren 8, Nelson 7, O'Amico 6, Coach: Ian Greener.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Tavoraro (T), 2. Bentley (Spring), 1. Clayton (T).

NORTHCOTE 0 CROYDON 2 (French 48th, J. Constantinou o.g. 63rd) at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCOTE: Gianopoulos — Mavroulis 6, Bozakis 7, Toro 7, Patinotis 6 — Bekiaris 6, Filipis 6, Constantinou 6 — Dionisopoulos (Stilidis 80th), P. Constantinou 7, Zebakis 6, Coach: Jimmy Pyrgos.

CROYDON: Whiteside 8 — Brown 8, Singleton 8, O'Reilly 8, Tansey 8 — McDonald 8, Kerr 7 (Beach 71st), Taylor 7 (Ollerton 71st), Livingstone 8 — French 8, Brogan 8, Coach: Peter Ollerton.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Livingstone (Croy), 2. French (Croy), 1. O'Reilly (Croy).

SCHIPANO BEST PLAYER AWARD

Bruno Cozzella, Fawknar's exciting striker, is the early leader in our Schipano Player of the Year award voting. The winner receives \$1,000 worth of furniture and voting is on a 3-2-1 basis for every league game.

Here are the leading votegeters after two rounds:

4 — Cozzella (Fawk) 3 — Kerr, Livingstone (Croy), A. Humble, Harrison (Box Hill), Cipri (Albion), Quigley, Boyle (Fawk), Athersych, MacLean (Falcons), Pat (Knox), Dzielakowski (Pol), Wilson (North), Culina (Dinamo), Tavoraro (Thomas).

VSF TRAVEL CLUB AWARD

Andy Humble of Box Hill and Russell Athersych of Morwell Falcons are the early leaders in our VSF Travel Club Top Scorer award.

The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ametco Travel, will give the leading State League marksman for 1985 a return trip to Singapore, flying Thai International.

Here are the leading scorers:

3 — A. Humble (Box Hill), Cozzella, Quigley (Fawk), Athersych (Falcons), Przybyla (Pol), Morovic 2 — French (Croy), (Dinamo)

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It's too hot for Ferenc

By LAURIE SCHWAB

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. OLD BOYS 6 (Buljevic 3, Stankovic, Micic, Rujevic pen) MELBOURNE-HUNGARIA OLD BOYS 3 (Menich 2, Farago).

FOOTSCRAY: S. Kazi, Zivkovic, A. Kazi, Lopatic, Fode, Rujevic, Lukic, Micic, Ilie, Stankovic, Buljevic. **Subs:** Brkic, Volk. **MELBOURNE:** Maroki, Drinoczy, Raffai, Pribil, Farago, Szabo, Voros, Bilic, Menich, Puskas, Bleskany. **Subs:** Naday, Kelsar.

Ferenc Puskas lasted only one half. His team was losing 1-5 as he went off, muttering: "It's too hot. I'm tired. The opponents are too young."

Puskas played for Melbourne-Hungaria Old boys against Footscray J.U.S.T. Old Boys at Schintler Reserve, Footscray.

J.U.S.T. went on to win 6-3, with Branko Buljevic — making his first appearance since retiring more than a year ago — notching a hat-trick.

Rocco Ilie, who played in the J.U.S.T. team, said: "We let him alone when he got the ball. We did not attack him, so he could show his skill. He has a mind like a computer. When the ball comes to him, he doesn't even look at it. He's already planned two or three moves ahead."

Buljevic said: "If I can do that when I'm 58, I'll be very happy."

Puskas enjoyed himself over a plate of cevapcici, Yugoslav salad and a few glasses of wine in the presence of the other players after the game, but spent most of the time making my one-year-old daughter Vivienne laugh. She now is the envy of every family in Europe, but will she remember?

Puskas who turned 58 yesterday (Tuesday) ranks alongside Pele, Alfredo di Stefano and Franz Beckenbauer as one of the greatest soccer players in history.

Puskas played a remarkable swerving pass which Mato Menich headed into the net for Melbourne-Hungaria's opening goal.

And one of his swerving free kicks was turned over the bar by goalkeeper Sandor Kazi.

The Footscray team proved to be far superior, however, and recovered from the early setback, surging to a 6-1 lead with three goals by Buljevic and one each by Frank Micic, Tommy Stankovic and Mirko Rujevic (penalty).

Stankovic and Micic, like Buljevic, played for Australia in their prime, while Rujevic represented Victoria.

To Puskas' chagrin, it was only after his withdrawal at half-time that Melbourne-Hungaria came back through Menich and Zoltan Farago.

Puskas will play for Melbourne-Hungaria Old Boys at J.T. Grey Reserve, Kororoit Creek Road, Williamstown this Saturday then goes to Adelaide the following day to appear as a guest player in a combined Hungarian-Italian Old Boys match. The Hungarian Social Centre in Victoria will hold a farewell banquet for Puskas at the Brighton Savoy Hotel at 7.30pm on April 12. For tickets, ring Mr George Sarosi on 534 6545.



Ferenc Puskas is "stuffed". But his silky skills remain intact.

Indoor centre at Dingley

Indoor soccer is about to move in on the might of the popular indoor cricket scene. Well, perhaps just share the stadium at the Dingley Indoor Cricket Centre.

With the enormous popularity that indoor soccer is attracting, Dingley Indoor Cricket has built an international size indoor soccer pitch with first class facilities. There's a comfortable viewing area, a warm-up area, a unique referees' viewing gallery, and showers. The pitch will accommodate games for six-a-side teams and with the standard of facilities available it isn't surprising that bookings already are heavy.

The Dingley Centre operates six nights a week and is now grading teams for men's, ladies', junior and social leagues which will commence after Easter.

The Centre is located at 50 Redwood Drive, Dingley and you're welcome to pop in and see for yourself how professional the Centre is, or call 551 6155 for any enquiries.



VIA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO

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FORZA JUVE!

Fermare la squadra campione d'Australia e capolista, a punteggio pieno, del girone meridionale della NSL che ha nelle sue file un portento di centravanti che sta segnando una media di due reti a partita, non e' impresa facile, eppure la Juventus c'e' riuscita.

Anzi, avrebbe addirittura potuto portar via tutta la posta in palio se un eccesso di cautela non avesse spinto il tecnico bianconero a cercare di proteggere lo striminzito vantaggio di 2-1 sostituendo l'"artista" Petersen con l'"artigiano" Miranda.

La mossa, a dire il vero non era sbagliata, poiche' con mezzo'ora di gioco rimasta era ragionevole aspettarsi che un uomo fresco e roccioso come Miranda avrebbe potuto arginare le velleita' finali del South Melbourne Hellas e contribuire a calare la saracinesca davanti alla porta juventina; purtroppo il calcolo non e' tornato e l'inarrestabile Charlie Egan e' riuscito ad eludere la guardia di Brown per la seconda volta durante la partita e mettere a segno la rete del pareggio elenico, la sua seconda della partita e la sua ottava in solo quattro incontri.

La Juventus esce cosi' imbattuta per la seconda settimana consecutiva da un incontro con dirette avversarie per lo scudetto: la settimana scorsa contro il Preston e questa settimana contro l'Hellas. Ma mentre nel primo caso la Juventus era partita con una formazione difensiva, con l'ovvia intenzione di non prendere innanzitutto, nel secondo caso ha dato battaglia ed ha giocato senza alcun timore rivincenziale ma conscia del fatto che puo' battersi alla pari contro qualsiasi formazione.

Questo grado di fiducia nei propri mezzi, oltre che al punto meritatamente conquistato, e' sicuramente il fattore piu' positivo ad emergere dalla partita di domenica scorsa. Ormai la Juventus ha dimenticato le incertezze e i traumi dell'inizio di stagione, ha smaltito lo stato di con-

KAT'S CORNER

with PETER KATHOLOS



So Brazilian stars are destined for our shores this year. Fantastic! And let's give credit to those responsible for signing up Vasco Da Gama to play in an international series in Australia in May.

South American countries Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina all have won World Cup finals and for many, many years that part of the globe has been renowned for producing players with immense close ball control and flair and a knack for the spectacular and spur-of-the-moment move which sends fans into raptures.

We certainly can learn a lot from the attitude and ability of Vasco Da Gama's players.

When Cruziero and Santos toured Australia in the 1970s there were big drawcards and after Brazil's exciting display in the last World Cup finals in Spain in 1982, I'm sure that the Australian public will flock to matches in the international series.

Everyone but everyone gets turned on by the magic of Brazilian soccer.

Sure, the accent is on skill over there but don't be fooled into thinking that Brazilian sides can't mix it when opponents get physical. And there's a hell of a lot of preparation going into Brazilian teams now, contrary to the idea that their players simply walk out into the park and do their own thing. Nevertheless, the accent still is on skill and flair in Brazil so let's look forward to seeing Vasco Da

A ton of skill, bags of flair head our way

Gama turn it on here in a couple of months.

Melita the side to beat

The NSW State League kicks off on the weekend and this year's competition is being sponsored by the TNT company.

Looking at pre-season results and the way teams are building up to the league, Melita looks like being the side to beat, which means that we could see it springing back into NSL ranks in 1986.

Melita's main recruit so far is Peter Hensman, the former Straker and Sydney Croatia player.

Rockdale looks just as solid as it did last year while Sutherland and Manly should be right up there again.

The dark horse for the title undoubtedly is Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic. With Raul Blanco as coach and prized recruits in Nello Borges, Marcos Silva, Paul Kirwan and young goalkeeper Chris Hummel, signed from Canberra two week ago, the side looks particularly strong. Once Balon gets his blend right and the players combine well, watch out!

Warringah Narrabeen, with new coach Ljubo Gokovic at

the helm, also should go well this year.

Fair go, FIFA!

What a raw deal we've got from FIFA!

Our path to the 1986 World Cup finals is a tough one indeed and it's about time that the administrators of the game here spoke up about what's been done to us.

We weren't wanted in the Asian zone for qualifying matches and have been dumped back over our old stamping ground, Oceania, along with other unwanted countries like Israel and Taiwan. It's a joke!

If we manage to fight our way through our qualifying games we've then got to play either Spain, Scotland or Wales on a home and away basis to reach the finals.

What a disgrace. Why should Spain, Scotland or Wales get a second bite at the cherry? What have they done to earn that privilege?

And what have we done to be cast aside in such a manner, into the worst possible qualifying set-up in the world?

Come on FIFA. It's about time that this situation is reviewed and we get the go that we're entitled to.

Passato l'esame del SM-Hellas attenzione alle bucce di banana

Traynor e' il rientro di Margaritis, si e' ulteriormente riga-
forzata con gli acquisti di Ba-
novic e di Petersen ed il defini-
tivo recupero di Incantalupo,
ha felicemente portato a ter-
mine la trasformazione definiti-
va di Campbell in terzino e di
Zinni in punta.

E' percio' questa una Juve-
ventus che puo' legittimamente
ambire a battersi per il primato,
a condizione pero' che sia guarita di uno strano ma-
le che si porta addosso da anni:
quello di giocare meravigliosamente
contro grandi squadre per poi scivolare su
bucce di banana. E la classica
buccia di banana se la trovera'
davanti lunedì prossimo (si
noti che la partita vera' gio-
cata di lunedì), e non di do-
menica, all'Olympic Park
mentre il nelle vesti del JUST
che fa da fanalino di coda con
quattro sconfitte su altrettante
partite e due reti messe a
segno contro il subite.

Solo una nettissima vittoria
sulla sconquassata formazione
jugoslava riuscirà a fuggire
l'ultimo dubbio sulla capacita'
della Juventus a condurre con
consistenza la sua "campagna
scudetto". Sulla carta il JUST
dovrebbe essere la vittima
predestinata ma a suo favore
potrebbero giocare due fat-
tori: il ritorno del "miracolo-
so" portiere Boland e la voglia
matta di Cirkovic, il tecnico
jugoslavo, a prendersi la rivin-
cita morale su quella Juve-
ventus che all'inizio di sta-
gione lo aveva "raggiunto" assun-
to per poi preferirgli Traynor.

Se pero' le cose dovessero
andare secondo le normali pre-
visioni e la partita si rivelasse
un "picnic di Pasqua", questa
buona e' far respirare una
boccata di "prima squadra" a
qualche giovane giocatore
come Mezzadra, Palatsides e
Durakovic.

Mentre da una parte e'
giusto che Margaritis voglia
temperare la sua formazione
ideale per raggiungere il
massimo di intensita' e forma, e'
altrettanto giusto che i giovani
rincalzi non siano comple-
tamente dimenticati. Una
ventina di minuti in partita fa-
rebbe molto bene al morale ed
all'esperienza dei rincalzi e
non danneggerebbe affatto
l'affiatamento dei titolari.

A proposito di giovani,
sembra che Frank Geremia
abbia deciso di appendere le
maniche e di chiudersi dopo
avere visto relegato in panchina
l'arrivo di Peter Lewis. La
decisione del giocatore pare
sia anche dettata dal fatto che
impegni di lavoro non gli ren-
dono piu' possibile dedicare

E' triste vedere uscire dalla
scena un ragazzo che ha sup-
plito a limitate dosi fisiche con
un grande cuore, una passione
ammirevole ed un coraggio da
leone.

Arrivato alla Juventus dal
Regent nel 1979, Frank diven-
to' il jolly della U18 B gio-
cando su tutta la fascia latera-
le, terzino, centrocampista
ed ala e, all'occorrenza, anche
da libero, sempre pronto a sacri-
ficare le sue preferenze per
riempire qualsiasi buco che si
creava in squadra.

Dopo alcuni anni di paziente
attesa nelle riserve Geremia
fecce da "tappabuchi" all'inizio
della scorsa stagione quando si
infortuno' Vince Bannon. Pian
piano pero' il ragazzo dimost-
ro' eccezionali doti di tecnica e
di cervello calcistico, oltre che
di cuore, e fu uno dei punti di
forza della squadra con la sua
continuita' e combattivita'.
Quando la squadra andava alle
deriva, sia l'anno scorso che
all'inizio di quest'anno, "Fran-
chetto" era uno dei pochi a
continuare a dare il suo me-
glio.

Purtroppo nel calcio smodera-
tamente fisico di oggi, un
tazzino di bassa statura ha la
vita molto difficile e siamo
sicuri che Frank Geremia sia
il primo ad ammettere di non
poter competere con un Peter
Lewis.

Ma e' altrettanto vero che
Frank Geremia si e' guadagna-
to un posto di preminenza
nella difesa della tifoserie juve-
ntina che lo ha eletto a ben-
iamino non solo per le sue doti
di giocatore, ma per tutta una
serie di qualita' personali:
serietta', modestia, attaca-
mento alla squadra, carattere
socioleale, palese desiderio di
giocare per l'amore dello sport.

E nessuno potra' mai toglier-
gli il vanto di essere stato
per un anno, a pieno merito,
titolare di una grande squadra
nel massimo campionato na-
zionale.

A nome di tutti i tifosi
bianconeri e di tutti gli sporti-
vi che sanno apprezzare un
vero sportivo, vogliamo ringra-
ziare Frank Geremia per il
grande contributo dato alla
squadra nei momenti difficili
ed esortarlo a lenire l'inevitabile
amaro dell'abbandono
con il pensiero che la sua pur
breve carriera come titolare
della Juventus sara' ricordata
per molto tempo e con grande
simpatia.

Detto questo non neghiamo
che ci sentiremmo molto piu'
sicuri se sapessimo che in caso
di necessita' (e puo' sempre
succedere, senza augurare
male a nessuno) la Juventus
potesse contare su un rincalzo

LEGA STATALE

Le tre "italiane" della Lega
Statale del Victoria hanno
spopolato le scorse weekend.

Il Fawken ha rifilato un
perentorio 5-0 al Ringwood e
condurre ora la classifica
grazie ad un migliore quo-
ziente reti, il Morwell Falcons
si e' liberato del Knox City con
un netto 3-0 e il Thomastown si
e' aggiudicato il "derby delle
matricole" battendo l'altra
neopromossa dello Springvale
per 3-1.

Anche se il campionato e'
solo agli inizi, questi risultati
fanno sperare che tutte e tre le
squadre sapranno dare molte
soddisfazioni ai rispettivi tifo-
si.

LEGHE MINORI

Fra le squadre delle leghe
minori continua a convincere
l'Estate Brunswick. Abuzzo che
salvo lo scorso weekend, ha
spauracchio dell'Holland Park
con un nettissimo 4-0.

Questo potrebbe essere
l'anno della definitiva con-
secrazione dell'allenatore Ca-
ratti e di alcuni giovani
giocatori cresciuti nei viali ju-
ventini (Romano, Marrama e
Rucci) che hanno deciso di far
le loro ossa nei tre cam-
pionati delle leghe minori.

Altra bella vittoria quella
del Westall Inter (2-1 al West
Melbourne), ha vinto anche il
Carrum United (la squadra
dell'Italo-Australian Club di
Dandenong) che ha rifilato un
3-2 al Meadow Park.

Yugoslavia calls up top striker

Striker Vahid Halilhodzic last weekend joined the Yugoslav squad preparing for tonight's (Wednesday's) World Cup qualifying match against France in Sarajevo.

Halilhodzic, a towering centre-forward who plays for Nantes and heads the French First Division scorers' list, was called up after Yugoslavia's disappointing 1-0 home win against Lewski Lubenough last Wednesday.

Two Yugoslav internationalists with Greek clubs joined the squad on Monday. They were mid-fielder Velimir Zajec and

by
**Manos
Milios**



NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 5 6,7,8 APRIL

SOUTHERN DIVISION

STH MELB HELLAS vs BRISBANE LIONS

At MIDDLE PARK 3pm

SUNDAY 7th



Charlie Egan

YOUTH GAME:-
STH MELB HELLAS
vs
NUNAWADING CITY
12.45pm



Doug Brown

PRESTON vs ADELAIDE CITY

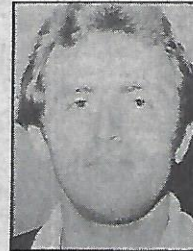
At CONNOR RESERVE 3pm

SUNDAY 7th



Phillip Traianidis

YOUTH GAME:-
PRESTON vs
FAWKNER
12.45pm



Zoran Ilioski

GREEN GULLY vs SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS

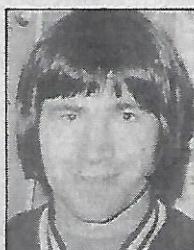
At GREEN GULLY RESERVE 3pm

SUNDAY 7th



Stuart Cannel

YOUTH GAME:-
GREEN GULLY vs
SUNSHINE
GEORGE CROSS
12.45pm



Lou Kastner

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS vs FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.

At OLYMPIC PARK NO.2 3pm

MONDAY 8th



Mike Petersen

YOUTH GAME:-
BRUNSWICK
JUVENTUS vs
FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.
at 12.45pm



Kiri Kyriakouleas

WEST ADELAIDE vs HEIDELBERG UNITED

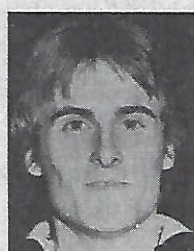
At HINDMARSH STADIUM 2.30pm

SUNDAY 7th



Steve Tassios

YOUTH GAME:-
FRANKSTON PINES
vs
HEIDELBERG
at venue to
be announced



Mike Valentine

BRISBANE CITY vs MELB CROATIA

At SPENCER PARK 3 pm

SUNDAY 7th



Josep Biscic

YOUTH GAME:-
CROYDON CITY vs
MELB CROATIA
At venue to
be announced



Gary Ward

NORTHERN DIVISION

PENRITH CITY vs WOLLONGONG CITY

At COOK PARK 3pm SUNDAY 7th

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD vs CANBERRA CITY

At ADAMSTOWN OVAL 2.30pm SATURDAY 6th

INTER MONARO vs SYDNEY CITY

At SEIFFERT OVAL 3pm SUNDAY 7th

MARCONI vs BLACKTOWN

At MARCONI STADIUM 3pm SUNDAY 7th

SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs APIA LEIGHARDT

At PRATTEN PARK 3pm MONDAY 8th

ST GEORGE vs SYDNEY CROATIA

At ST GEORGE STADIUM 3pm SUNDAY 7th